

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 1 014 318 A2

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:

28.06.2000 Bulletin 2000/26

(51) Int. Cl.⁷: G07F 17/42, G07B 1/02

(21) Application number: 99125264.4

(22) Date of filing: 17.12.1999

(84) Designated Contracting States:

AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE

Designated Extension States:

AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: 18.12.1998 JP 36072098

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(54) Ticket issuing method, ticket issuing system and ticket collating method

(57) In a ticket issuing method, security data is first made from ticket issue request data and user identification data sent from user via a communication means and then, ticket image data is made from the ticket issue request data and by embedding the security data in the

ticket image data in the invisible state, ticket printing data for printing ticket by user is made. The ticket printing data thus made is sent to user via a communication means.

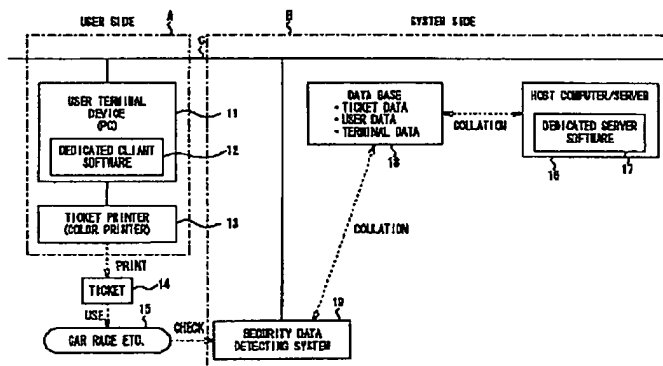


FIG. 1

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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 1. Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a ticket issuing method and a ticket issuing system to issue tickets, for instance, tickets for concerts, tickets of travelling facilities and other tickets by way of a network or a telephone line.

10 [0002] Further, the present invention relates to a ticket collating method for examining the genuineness of issued tickets.

2. Description of the Related Art

15 [0003] In recent years, a system is widespread to request tickets for concerts or transport facilities using a network or a telephone line and a requester goes to pick up the requested ticket at a prescribed place. Thus, it is possible to purchase tickets at home or a company.

[0004] Further, based on the widespread of personal computers and color printers and improvement of the infrastructure of the communication environment of the internet, etc., a system that is capable of directly issuing tickets that are requested via a network at home or a company is now under the examination.

20 [0005] Further, such a service is provided recently that when a ticket for a concert is requested via a network, an image for exchanging with a ticket is unloaded on a personal computer at home and record it on a floppy disk, that is then brought to the place of concert for listening the concert.

[0006] Further, a system is also being tested now to request an electronic postage stamp via a network and issue the requested electronic postage stamp at home or a company. For instance, U.S. Patent No. 5,696,507 and U.S. Patent 25 No. 5,666,284, disclosed a method and a system to store postage stamp data including coded postal charge data in a dedicated storage device that is connected to a personal computer and print the stamp data on an envelope.

[0007] However, a dedicated storage device that is connected to a personal computer is required for the method and the system disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,606,507 and U.S. Patent No. 5,666,284 and therefore, a client system structure is restricted. Further, although a postal charge data is coded, it is printed in the visible state on an envelope 30 using a two-dimensional code technology or its applied technology and therefore, there is such a defect that coded data is read relatively easily when a difference in two data is taken and compared and thus, its security is weak.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

35 [0008] An object of the present invention is to provide a ticket issuing method and a ticket issuing system that are capable of simply issuing tickets that have high security by way of communication means such as a network or a telephone line.

[0009] In addition, another object of the present invention is to provide a ticket collating method that is capable of easily examining the genuineness of issued tickets and easily making a follow-up survey when any illegal ticket is 40 detected.

[0010] According to the present invention, a ticket issuing method comprising the steps of making security data from ticket issue request data and user identification data sent from a user via a communication means; making ticket image data from the ticket issue request data; making ticket printing data by embedding the security data in the ticket image data, the security data being invisible against the ticket image data when the ticket printing data including the 45 ticket image data and the security data is printed on a ticket paper by the user; and sending the ticket printing data to the user via a communication means, is provided.

[0011] Further, according to the present invention, a ticket collation method comprising the steps of: making security data from ticket issue request data and user identification data sent from a user via a communication means; making ticket image data from the ticket issue request data; making a prescribed pattern image data; making pattern 50 modulated image data by modulating the prescribed pattern image data by the security data; making ticket printing data by superimposing the pattern modulated image data on the ticket image data; sending the ticket printing data to the user via a communication means; restoring the security data from a ticket printed by the user based on the received ticket printing data; and judging genuineness of the printed ticket according to the restored security data, is provided.

[0012] Further, according to the present invention, a ticket issuing system comprising: means for making security data from ticket issue request data and user identification data sent from a user via a communication means; means for 55 making ticket image data from the ticket issue request data; means for making ticket printing data by embedding the security data in the ticket image data, the security data being invisible against the ticket image data when the ticket printing data including the ticket image data and the security data is printed on a ticket paper by the user; and means for

sending the ticket printing data to the user via a communication means, is provided.

[0013] Further, according to the present invention, a ticket issuing method comprising the steps of: outputting security data according to ticket issue request data from a user via a communication means, the security data being visible when the security data is printed on a paper; outputting ticket image data from the ticket issue request data, the ticket image data being visible when the ticket image data is printed on a paper; outputting ticket printing data by embedding the security data in the ticket image data, the security data being invisible against the ticket image data when the ticket printing data including the ticket image data and the security data is printed on a ticket paper by the user; and sending the ticket printing data to the user via the communication means, is provided.

10 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014]

FIG. 1 is a block diagram schematically showing the structure of a ticket issuing system for achieving a ticket issuing method of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a flowchart for explaining the operating steps of ticket issue;

FIG. 3 is a plan view showing an example of ticket image data when applied to an auto race admission ticket;

FIG. 4 is a plan view showing one example of security data when applied to an auto race admission ticket;

FIG. 5 is a plan view showing one example of ticket printing data when applied to an auto race admission ticket;

FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram for explaining the binary imaging of security data by two-dimensional code;

FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram for explaining the binary imaging of security data by two-dimensional code;

FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram for explaining the binary imaging of security data by two-dimensional code;

FIG. 9 is a block diagram for explaining the ticket printing data preparation step;

FIG. 10 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 11 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 12 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 13 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 14 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 15 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 16 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 17 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 18 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 19 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 20 is a diagram for explaining the thinning process in a third reproduction method;

FIG. 21 is a diagram for explaining an interpolation process in a third reproduction method;

FIG. 22 is a diagram schematically showing a ticket issuing method; and

FIG. 23 is a diagram for explaining an example when the ticket issue method of the present invention is applied to electronic postage stamps.

40 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0015] Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described below referring to the drawings.

[0016] FIG. 1 is a block diagram schematically showing the structure of a ticket issuing system to achieve the ticket issuing method of the present invention. This ticket issuing system is composed of by connecting a user side apparatus A with a system side apparatus B through such a network C as Internet, LAN, etc.

[0017] Further, "user" referred to here does mean a person who prints a ticket by a printer available at home and uses that ticket and a person who prints a ticket by a printer available at home or installed at a shop for use by other person or shop customer.

[0018] The user side apparatus A is composed of a user terminal device 11 comprising a personal computer, a dedicated client software 12 that operates on a personal computer, and a ticket printer 13 such as a color printer that is connected to the user terminal device 11.

[0019] The system side apparatus B is composed of a host computer/server 16, a dedicated server software 17 that operates on a host computer, a data base 18 that stores ticket data, user data and other data, and a security data detecting system 19.

[0020] Next, a ticket issue operating steps will be explained referring to a flowchart shown in FIG. 2. The host computer/server 16, the dedicated server software 17 and the data base 18 are always in the ready to operate state and users who are registered in the data base 18 are able to use anytime.

[0021] First, a user starts up the user terminal device 11 and the dedicated client software 12 (Step S1) and con-

nects the user terminal device 11 to the host computer/server 16 (Step S5) by inputting user identification data such as a user ID and a password (Step S2).

[0022] The host computer/server 16 collates the input user identification data with data stored in the data base 18 (Step S3) and approves the connection (Step S4) and starts the service when the input data is contained in the registered user list, and rejects the connection if it is not contained in the registered user list.

[0023] When connected to the host computer/server 16 (Step S5), a service menu is displayed on the user terminal device 11 and a user selects a desired service and input ticket issue request data (Step S8). The ticket issue request data referred to here are, in the case of, for instance, a ticket purchasing service, such required data as a kind of desired ticket, date and time, charge, seat reservation, charge paying means, etc.

[0024] When the ticket issue request data are input, the user terminal device 11 transmits these input data to the host computer/server 16. The host computer/server 16 receives the data and collating the data with the data stored in the data base 18 (Step S9), executes a ticket purchasing step. If a desired ticket cannot be purchased, the host computer/server 16 sends a message stating it to the user terminal device 11 and the step returns to the service menu.

[0025] If a ticket is purchasable, the host computer/server 16 outputs security data from the ticket issue request data and user identification data (Step S10), forms ticket image data from the ticket issue request data (Step S11), and makes ticket printing data by embedding the security data in the ticket image data in the invisible state (Step S12). When the security data is printed on a paper, the security data is visible. Further, the host computer/server 16 makes ticket display data based on the ticket printing data (Step S13) and transmits the ticket printing data and the ticket display data to the user terminal device 11 (Step S14). The detailed method for making security data, ticket printing data and ticket display data will be described later.

[0026] The ticket display data sent from the host computer/server 16 is displayed on the display of the user terminal device 11 (Step S15). A user checks the display by looking it and when there is no problem, prints a ticket. That is, when a print command is executed, the ticket printing data is sent from the user terminal device 11 to the ticket printer 13 and a ticket 14 is printed and output (Step S16). When the print is normally completed, a print completion command is executed and when there are any print error, etc., the print command is executed again.

[0027] A user is able to go to a place of concert with a printed ticket and use it as usual (Step S17). At the place of concert, whether the used ticket 14 is a proper ticket is checked using a security data detecting system 19. In the security data detecting system 19, the genuineness of the ticket is judged by collating the detected security data with data stored in the data base 18 (Step S18).

[0028] FIG. 3-FIG. 5 show examples of auto race admission tickets applicable to this embodiment. Fig. 3 shows ticket image data 21, FIG. 4 shows security data 22 and FIG. 5 shows ticket printing data schematically.

[0029] The ticket image data 21 shown in FIG. 3 are generated from the ticket issue request data referring to the data base 18 during the process in Step S11 shown in FIG. 2. On this ticket, a kind of ticket 31, a place 32, a date and time 33, a reserved seat number 34, a charge 35, a serial number 36, a ticket issuer 37 and a logo mark that are required for tickets for a normal concert are printed. These data are also printed on the stub of the ticket. The security data 22 shown in FIG. 4 is generated from the user identification data and the ticket issue request data during the process in Step S10 shown in FIG. 2. This security data 22 is used for the genuineness judgement to check whether a ticket was forged or altered. In this example, such data as a two-dimensional code data 39, a serial number for inquiring 40, a ticket issuer 41, a logo mark are printed on this ticket. Letters and figures are also expressed in binary image.

[0030] The two-dimensional code data 39 is printed for the automatic mechanical process when the security data 22 is read. The kind of ticket 31, place 32, date and time 33, reserved seat number 34, charge 35, serial number 36, ticket issuer 36 and logo mark 38 were converted into two-dimensional codes and contained in this two-dimensional code data 39. Further, the serial number for inquiry 40, ticket issuer 41 and logo mark are provided for checking the security data 22 with the naked eye.

[0031] Numbers of four figures are used for the inquiry serial numbers 36 and 40 in this embodiment. The tickets shown here are composed of data shown in the following table 1.

[Table 1]

Classification	No. of Figure	Data Example	Use
Serial No.	20	1998092512345678	Used for inquiry to Data Base
Date of Issue	8	19980925	Date
Class. Code 1	2	12	Data Base Class. Code
Class. Code 2	4	3412	Kind of Ticket/Area/Form of Contract. etc.
Ticket No.	6	345678	Ticket Issue Order

[0032] In the above table 1, Date of Issue indicates a date when issue of a ticket was requested, Class. Code 1 indicates the data storage location of the data base for search, Class. Code 2 indicates coded kind of ticket and others, and Ticket No. indicates the ticket issue order. Using a serial number comprising these data as a key for collating to the data base 18, it is possible to uniformly manage a large quantity of tickets.

5 [0033] Thus, the security data 22 shown in FIG. 4 is able to check both of man and machine. These data are also printed on the stub of a ticket.

[0034] The ticket printing data 23 shown in FIG. 5, that is, visible data and invisible data are made from the security data and the ticket image data during the process of Step S12 shown in FIG. 2 and an actually usable ticket is produced when these data are printed. The ticket printing data 23 shown in FIG. 5 is made by embedding the security data 22 shown in FIG. 4 in the ticket image data 21 shown in FIG. 3 in the invisible state according to a method that is described later. Accordingly, the tickets shown in FIG. 3 and FIG. 5 are quite the same and cannot be discriminated by the naked eye.

[0035] In this embodiment, an inquiry serial number, a ticket issuer and its logo mark are included in the visible state in the ticket image data, and in the invisible state in the security data. Thus, by partially including the data in a ticket in the visible and invisible state, it becomes possible to immediately detect a ticket that is forged or altered through the simple rewriting.

[0036] Further, regarding a logo mark, its location in the visible state is so arranged that it is completely agreed with that in the invisible state. Thus, it becomes very difficult to forge or alter either one or both of logo marks visibly state and invisibly and security of a ticket is further improved.

20 [0037] Next, how to form the security data will be described.

[0038] The security data is composed of two-dimensional code data and binary image such as letters or marks as shown in FIG. 4; however, one of these elements only or both elements may be included.

[0039] When the security data is input in two-dimensional code, the mechanical process becomes possible when detecting the security data and when the security data is input in binary image, the visual process by man becomes possible and these processes are selectable according to a system characteristic. Two-dimensional code and binary image are called the basic security data.

[0040] One example of the partial generation of the two-dimensional code 39 shown in FIG. 4 will be explained.

30 [0041] The two-dimensional code 39 is printed on a ticket for the mechanical automatic process when the security data is read as mentioned above, and a kind of ticket, etc. are coded and included on the security data. For two-dimensionally coded data, it is possible to use not only a kind of ticket but also almost all kinds of forms such as voice, image, text, etc. including individual data such as pre-registered voiceprint and fingerprints of user and, managing data.

[0042] First, it is necessary to convert basic security data into digital data. In the case of basic security data comprising such analog data as voice and voiceprint, they are converted into digital data through the A/D conversion. The data that is already in the digital form is used as it is.

35 [0043] Then, the digitized basic security data is converted into a binary image in two-dimensional code. The basic security data is delimited into 4-bit blocks in order from the top and each block is replaced to a 2x2 pixel black and white binary image according to a value of each block as shown in FIG. 6.

[0044] For instance, when embedded data are arranged in the hexadecimal notation from the top as shown below, FF 01 45 D3 ...

40 These data are replaced as shown in FIG. 7.

[0045] Further, the binary image data (FIG. 6) is expanded by n times so as not to impair the embedded image data during the smoothing process at the time of the composite process described later. Here, n=2-4 is desirable. The result when the binary image data shown in FIG. 7 was expanded when, for instance, n=2 is shown in FIG. 8.

45 [0046] In this embodiment, Calra code was applied in the two-dimensional coding; however, other two-dimensional codes such as matrix system two-dimensional codes and Glyph codes are also usable without problem.

[0047] In the case where such two-dimensional image data as a character string 41 of "Ticket East-West-South-North" and a logo mark 42 as shown in FIG. 4 are inserted in the security data, these data are converted into binary image data. In this case, it is necessary to unify image resolutions when converting data into binary images and is desirable to bring image resolutions in accord with those of the ticket printing data. Such significant portions including letters, etc. are converted into black components and meaningless portions such as background, etc. are converted into white components.

[0048] The two-dimensional code data and binary image data thus made are arranged in the same size area as the ticket image data as shown in FIG. 4. It is necessary to predetermine the layout by a system for the convenience of a sensor to detect the security data.

55 [0049] Next, the ticket printing data making method (the composite processing method) will be described in detail.

[0050] The ticket image data 21 is data of a so-called ticket itself and is equivalent to FIG. 3. There are data of 24 bits (8 bits for each of RGB) per pixel. The security data 22 is data to be embedded in the ticket image data 21 in the invisible state and is equivalent to FIG. 4. There are 1 bit data per pixel. The key image data 24 is data that becomes a

key for making the ticket printing data and detecting (restoring) the security data. This data is not opened to user and has 1 bit data per pixel.

[0051] First, in the smoothing processing step S51, the smoothing process is executed with the black pixels of the security data made "1" and the white pixels made "0". Here, the pixels at both ends of noteworthy pixels in the x direction are taken, the 3×1 pixel area is cut and a weighted average is taken as shown by the following expression (1).

$$W(i) = (STL(i-1) + 2 \cdot STL(i) + STL(i+1)) / 4 \quad (1)$$

where,

$W(i)$: x = Weighted mean value of i pixel

$STL(i)$: x = Embedded image data of i pixel = 1 or 0

[0052] If the security data was not increased by n times when made, the two-dimensional code data of the security data was destructed in this smoothing process. The more the expansion factor n is larger, the higher the safe factor not to destruct the embedded image data will become but concealed data is apt to be disclosed.

[0053] For instance, when the key image data 24 and the security data 22 are as shown in FIG. 10 and FIG. 11, respectively, the result of the smoothing process becomes as shown in FIG. 12. The embedded data was expanded to 4 times by setting the security data 22 at n=4. Further, two pixels around the outside are set at "0" as the embedding allowance.

[0054] Then, in the phase modulation step S52, based on the result of the smoothing process in the smoothing process step S51, the phase modulation of the key image data 24 is executed according to the rules of the following expressions (2-1)-(2-3).

$$\text{When } W(i)=0 \rightarrow DES(i)=MSK(i) \quad (2-1)$$

$$\text{When } W(i)=1 \rightarrow DES(i)=MSK(i+2) \quad (2-2)$$

$$\text{When other than above} \rightarrow DES(i)=MSK(i+1) \quad (2-3)$$

$DES(i)$: x=i pixel phase modulation result = 1 or 0

$MSK(i)$: x=i pixel key image data = 1 or 0

[0055] Here, the x=0 column and x=15 column are the edges of the image data and therefore, cannot be smoothed and also cannot be applied with the phase modulation. So, at the edge, the exclusive OR of the key image data 24 with the security data 22 is taken. The result of the phase modulation is shown in FIG. 13.

[0056] Then, in the color difference modulation step S53, based on the phase modulation result in the phase modulation step S52, the color difference modulation process is executed according to the rules of the following expressions (3-1)-(3-6). In this case, three components of R(Red), G(Green) and B(Blue) are separately calculated. An example of the color difference modulation result of the red component is shown in FIG. 14.

$$\text{When } DES(i)=1 \rightarrow VR(i) = -\Delta V \quad (3-1)$$

$$\rightarrow VG(i) = +\Delta V \quad (3-2)$$

$$\rightarrow VB(i) = +\Delta V \quad (3-3)$$

$$\text{When } DES(i)=0 \rightarrow VR(i) = +\Delta V \quad (3-4)$$

$$\rightarrow VG(i) = -\Delta V \quad (3-5)$$

$$\rightarrow VB(i) = -\Delta V \quad (3-6)$$

$VR(i)$: x = the color difference modulation result of i pixel for Red component

An integer in the range of -255~255

$VG(i)$: x = the color difference modulation result of i pixel for Green component

An integer in the range of -255~255

$VB(i)$: x = the color difference modulation result of i pixel for Blue component

An integer in the range of -255~255

[0057] Further, the color difference amount ΔV is an integer in the range of preset "0~255". The more the color difference amount ΔV is larger, the more the visible contract when restoring an embedded image data becomes higher, and the embedded data can be reproduced easily. However, if it is too large, the security data is apt to be easily disclosed. Accordingly, the color difference amount ΔV is desirable at about "16~96"; however, $\Delta V=48$ is used here.

[0058] Lastly, in the superimposition step S54, from the color difference modulation result and the ticket image data 21 in the color difference step S53, the superimposition process shown in the following expression (4-1)-(4-3) is executed and the ticket printing data 23 is made.

$$DESR(i)=VR(i)+SRCR(i) \quad (4-1)$$

$$DESG(i)=VG(i)+SRCG(i) \quad (4-2)$$

$$DESB(i)=VB(i)+SRCB(i) \quad (4-3)$$

DESR(i): x = the i pixel superimposition process result for Red component

An integer in the range of 0~255.

DESG(i): x = the i pixel superimposition process result for Green component

An integer in the range of 0~255.

DESB(i): x = the i pixel superimposition process result for Blue Component.

An integer in the range of 0~255.

SRCR(i): x = Embedded image data of i pixel for Red Component.

An integer in the range of 0~255.

SRCG(i): x = Embedded image data of i pixel for Green Component.

An integer in the range of 0~255.

SRCB(i): x = Embedded image data of i pixel for Blue Component.

An integer in the range of 0~255.

[0059] Further, DESR(i), DESG(i) and DESG(i) are integers in the range of "0~255", respectively. If the result of calculation is below "0", they are set at "0" and above "255", they are set at "255".

[0060] Results of Red component when all pixels of the ticket image data 21 are (R,G,B)=(127, 127, 127) are shown in FIG. 15. All values are integers in the range of "0~ 255" and "255" indicates that Red component is most frequent. In FIG. 15, pixels with less red components and pixels with much red components are alternately repeated in unit of two pixels in the area where no security data is embedded like a value of (0,0) pixel = 79, a value of (1,0) pixel = 79, a value of (2,0) pixel = 175 ...

[0061] As shown in the expressions (3-1)~(3-3) or (3-4) ~ (3-6), red, green and blue color difference amount codes are reversed. Accordingly, in pixels containing much red components, green and blue components are less and in pixels containing less red components, other components are much contained. Red and (Green, Blue) = Cyan are complementary colors each other and even when red and cyan are adjacent to each other, they are hardly discriminated by the eyes of a man and looked as no color. Further, as red rich pixels and cyan rich pixels are arranged repeatedly in unit of several pixels according to key image data, this fine color difference cannot be identified by the eyes of man and a color difference amount is judged to be plus-minus "0".

[0062] For instance, in the expression (4-1), it is erroneously judged to be:

$$DESR(i) \text{ SRCR(i)} \quad (5)$$

And it is not possible to discriminated that the image data is embedded. Accordingly, it becomes possible to form a ticket printing data with a security data embedded invisibly in a ticket image data according to this principle.

[0063] When making the print with a color printer using the ticket printing data, the more a color difference amount ΔV is larger, the more easy to discriminate the data and therefore, the more a degree to restore the security data becomes higher. However, the security data embedded in the invisible state in the ticket printing data may be easily exposed to a third person in some case.

[0064] So, when printing and outputting the ticket printing data with a color printer, it is possible to prevent the security data from being exposed without breaking the security data by outputting the data after executing an error diffusion process as an image processing. The security data in the macroscopically invisible state are preserved because density of pixels of ticket printing data is compensated by the error diffusion process.

[0065] Further, when the error diffusion process is applied, low frequency components decrease and high fre-

quency components increase. As the security data embedded in the ticket printing data is composed of high frequency components, other high frequency components are mixed therein and therefore, the security data becomes the state that is not visually discriminated.

[0066] Next, a ticket display data making method will be described.

5 [0067] Ticket display data that is made directly unusable is made by partially reducing the ticket printing data and breaking the ticket image data and the security data embedded in the invisible state.

[0068] First, the ticket printing data shown in FIG. 15 is cut in a 3x3 pixel area and is applied with the smoothing process. This is simply to take only an average and the result is as shown in FIG. 16. From the result of the smoothing process, leaving the pixel data at the top of the 4x4 pixel area, the remainder is erased (the thinning process). The result
10 is as shown in FIG. 17. This data becomes the ticket display data.

[0069] Here, amount of data is about 1/4 of the ticket printing data. The print image resolution is generally 300~600 dpi but the image resolution of the display picture is about 100 dpi, which is 1/3-1/6 of the general print image resolution and therefore, there will be no problem.

[0070] Thus, without displaying the ticket printing data directly on the user terminal device 11, the ticket display data
15 is made by breaking the securing data by reducing data from the ticket printing data and displayed on the user terminal device 11. As the process (display) is fast because amount of data is less and the security data and the ticket image data are partially broken, the ticket printing data cannot be used even when it is tried to obtain it illegally by taking a hard copy of the display. Accordingly, there is such a merit that the security is improved.

[0071] The ticket printing data and the ticket display data are not different apparently from the normal image and
20 therefore, for instance, such general purpose image formats as JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) and TIFF (Tagged Image File Format) are useable. Further, as they can be processed according to an application for treating general images, the system construction is relatively easy.

[0072] Further, even when the ticket printing data image format is changed to other formats in a system, an embedded security data is left as it is and no problem is caused.

25 [0073] By the way, the ticket 14 printed with the ticket printing data printed and output with the ticket printer. 13 such as a color printer is used by user at a place of circuit. At this time, the system side is able to judge the genuineness of the ticket by detecting the security data of the used ticket 14. This is described below in detail.

[0074] An image of the ticket 14 printed on a paper, etc. with the ticket printer 13 is read by an optical reading means such as a scanner, digitized to the state shown in FIG. 15 and the security data 22 is restored.

30 [0075] To restore the security data 22, a key image data 22 shown in FIG. 10 is used. By bringing the key image data 24 to correspond with values of the ticket image of the ticket printing data 23 read by a scanner 1 : 1. The portion "1" of the value of the key image data 24 judges the ticket printing data 23 to be valid and the portion "0" of the value of the key image data 24 judges the value of the ticket printing data 23 to be invalid. The result is shown in FIG. 18. The hatched pixels in the figure are invalid data. The valid data (expressed in white on a black ground) in FIG. 18 is cut out
35 in a prescribed size.

[0076] The security data 22 in this embodiment was expanded by 4 times by setting $n=4$ and therefore, after removing the embedded allowance of 2 pixels around it, the data is cut out in unit of 4x4 pixels. If a valid data value in the 4x4 pixel range is a red rich value ("175" in this embodiment), the embedded image data (the security data) is 1. If it is a cyan rich value ("79" in this embodiment), the embedded image data is 0. If both of red rich and cyan rich values are
40 included, either one containing more rich color is adopted.

[0077] This is because of the smoothing process in the composition process. The result of the restoration of a embedded image data (the security data) 22 according to this method is shown in FIG. 19. The thick frame portion in the figure is the portion of the security data 22. This portion is in accord with FIG. 11 and it is seen that the security data 22 was completely restored.

45 [0078] Further, in this embodiment, for instance, after printing the data at a resolution 400 dpi by a thermal sublimation type printer and reading it at a resolution 1200 dpi by an optical scanner, it was restored without any problem.

[0079] Further, as a second security data restoring and detecting method, when a reproduction sheet having the same pattern transmission factor as the key image data 24 is superimposed on the printed surface of the ticket 14 physically, the security data 22 becomes visible. Accordingly, it is possible to directly check a logo mark, etc. in the security
50 data 22 visually. This method does not require troublesome operations and a complicated apparatus and therefore, there is a merit that genuineness of a ticket can be checked simply at any place.

[0080] Further, as a third security data restoring and detecting method, a system to thin a value read by an optical means will be described. It is assumed that red components of a value read by a scanner, etc. are as shown in FIG. 15. As a checkered pattern of 4x2 unit is used for the composition process in this embodiment, the security data is thinned
55 in unit of 4 pixels. An expansion factor n when making the security data is also related to this value and an expression of (Checkered grid unit \times Expansion factor $n \geq$ Number of pixels to be thinned) becomes valid.

[0081] When the image data shown in FIG. 15 is thinned in unit of 4 pixels, it will become as shown in FIG. 20. However, as image data is insufficient, when all of 4x2 areas are set at the same value with the remaining pixels at the top,

the image data becomes as shown in FIG. 21. Although two pixels are deviated in the x direction and the y direction, it is seen that the security data 22 shown in FIG. 11 was completely restored. Thus, when the read image data is thinned, number of pixels to be processed when restoring are reduced and it becomes possible to restore the data at high speed.

[0082] As described above, by detecting the presence of the security data 22 embedded in the used ticket 14, the genuineness of the ticket 14 can be easily judged. For instance, even if the ticket 14 was given to a third person and illegally copied using a color copying machine, the history of that ticket, for instance, when, where and who issued it can be seen as the security data 22 contains an inquiry serial number and an illegal route can be detected easily.

[0083] In this embodiment, the composition process is executed using a checkered pattern in unit of 4x2 pixels as a key. So, when the composition process is executed using a checkered pattern in size of 1x1 pixel, the effect to prevent the copying with a color copying machine is further promoted. This is because red rich and cyan rich pixel data of the ticket printing data are regularly arranged alternately by the composition process when such square grids as size 1x1 or 2x2 pixels are used.

[0084] A sensor of a scanner portion of a color copying machine is not a spot but has a limited area and therefore, even if a scanner reading resolution is the same as a ticket printing resolution, pixels of a sensor of scanner and pixels of the ticket printing data are finely deviated and they are read as they are. Here, the red and cyan components are complementary colors and it is therefore difficult to separate pixels arranged in extremely highly precise pitches and erroneously recognized to be gray by the eyes of man and sensors, and they cannot be properly copied.

[0085] According to this embodiment, it becomes possible to remarkably promote security of tickets, etc. However, because security data is embedded in the invisible state, some means is needed to restore it and it is not easy to perform this work for all tickets.

[0086] So, it is necessary to distinguish a ticket that has security data embedded in the invisible state from those tickets without security data embedded but guaranteed them to be proper by some other means. For instance, using a means to print a logo mark of a ticket with embedded security data in red and to print a logo mark of a ticket without embedded security in blue, they can be easily checked and time and cost can be saved sharply.

[0087] FIG. 22 schematically shows the state from issue of ticket to detection of security data so far in use. For the ticket image data 21, a landscape photograph is used. For the security data 22, a logo mark "JAPAN" as a copyright data and a two-dimensional code for checking by the sense of vision of a man and by a machine that are converted into the security data according to the steps shown in this embodiment are used.

[0088] First, the ticket printing data 23 is made by executing the composition process of the ticket image data 21, the security data 22 and the key image data 24 according to the method described above. The image of this ticket printing data 23 is seen as a landscape photograph to the eyes of a man but the copyright data, etc. are invisibly embedded. Further, the ticket display data 25 is made from the ticket printing data 23 according to the method shown in this embodiment.

[0089] Then, these ticket printing data 23 and the ticket display data 25 are transmitted via a network to a user who requested the issue of a ticket. When receiving the ticket display data 25, user displays the ticket display data 25 on the display of the user terminal device 11 and after checking its contents, prints and outputs the ticket printing data 23 using the ticket printer 13 as a color printer and obtains the ticket 14.

[0090] User is able to use this issued ticket 14 and a system side detects the security data of the used ticket 14 using the key image data and judges the genuineness of it by collating the data base with the security data.

[0091] As the security data including the copyright data is embedded invisibly in this issued ticket 14, it is possible to restore the copyright data according to the method of restoration described above.

[0092] FIG. 23 is an example of the ticket issue method of this invention applied to an electronic postage stamp. FIG. 23(a) is the ticket printing data, FIG. 23(b) is a stamp image portion and FIG. 23(c) is the security data invisibly embedded in the stamp image portion. To enable a user to issue what has a value equal to money like postage stamps, security becomes particularly important. When security data is invisibly embedded in an electronic postage stamp likewise the auto race admission ticket described above and the print data of that ticket (stamp) is printed directly on an envelope, etc., an electronic stamp can be realized.

[0093] In the case of such a mail, it is generally processed mechanically by an address reader and therefore, security can be maintained by judging its genuineness by reading the security data embedded in an electronic stamp with a sensor. Further, when printing a stamp by a color printer, a cost can be reduced sharply by simultaneously printing an address and a name.

[0094] As described above, according to this invention, it is possible to provide a ticket issuing method that is capable of easily issuing tickets having high security through such communication means as a network, a telephone line, etc.

[0095] Further, according to this invention, it is possible to provide a ticket collating method that is capable of easily judging the genuineness of issued tickets and easily making a follow-up check when any illegality occurred.

Claims

1. A ticket issuing method comprising the steps of:

making security data from ticket issue request data and user identification data sent from a user via a communication means;
making ticket image data from the ticket issue request data;
making ticket printing data by embedding the security data in the ticket image data, the security data being invisible against the ticket image data when the ticket printing data including the ticket image data and the security data is printed on a ticket paper by the user; and
sending the ticket printing data to the user via a communication means.

2. A ticket issuing method according to claim 1, wherein the step to make the security data includes the steps of:

making binary embedded data by binary encoding basic security data comprising control code, letter, image, voice, etc.; and
converting the binary embedded data into binary image data in preset specific format.

3. A ticket issuing method according to claim 1, wherein the step to make the ticket printing data includes the steps of:

making prescribed pattern image data;
making pattern modulated data by modulating the pattern image data by the security data; and
superimposing the pattern modulated image data on the ticket image data.

4. A ticket issuing method according to claim 3, wherein the step of making the prescribed pattern image data includes the step of:

arranging adjacent image data so that they become a combination of complementary colors.

5. A ticket issuing method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

making ticket display data for checking the display by a display means of the user by partially reducing the ticket printing data;
wherein the sending step sends the ticket display data together with the ticket printing data to a user via a communication means.

6. A ticket issuing method according to claim 5, wherein the step to make the ticket display data includes the steps of:

executing the smoothing process of the ticket printing data; and
executing the thinning process of the smoothing processed ticket printing data.

7. A ticket issuing method according to claim 1, wherein the ticket printing data making step includes the step of:

embedding a part of the security data in the ticket image data in both the invisible state and the visible state.

8. A ticket issuing method according to claim 1, wherein the ticket printing data making step includes the step of:

embedding a part of the security data in the ticket image data in both the invisible state and the visible state so that the invisible and visible state locations agree with each other.

9. A ticket issuing method according to claim 1, wherein the ticket printing data making step includes the step of:

visibly adding a specific mark for distinguishing from the ticket image data without the security data embedded to the ticket image data with the security data embedded in the invisible state.

10. A ticket issuing method according to claim 1, wherein the security data is composed of user identification data, ticket issue date and time data, kind of ticket data, ticket available period data, ticket charge data and control data.

11. A ticket collating method comprising the steps of:

making security data from ticket issue request data and user identification data sent from a user via a communication means;

5 making ticket image data from the ticket issue request data;

making a prescribed pattern image data;

making pattern modulated image data by modulating the prescribed pattern image data by the security data;

making ticket printing data by superimposing the pattern modulated image data on the ticket image data;

sending the ticket printing data to the user via a communication means;

10 restoring the security data from a ticket printed by the user based on the received ticket printing data; and

judging genuineness of the printed ticket according to the restored security data.

12. A ticket collating method according to claim 11, wherein the restoring step includes the step of:

15 making the security data visible by physically superimposing a sheet shape mask having the transmission factor of the same pattern as the pattern image data on the printed ticket.

13. A ticket collating method according to claim 11, wherein the restoring step includes the step of:

20 reading the printed ticket data optically and comparing the obtained read signal with a mask signal representing the same pattern as the pattern image data, making the agreed portions of both signals invalid.

14. A ticket collating method according to claim 11, wherein the restoring step includes the step of:

25 reading the printed ticket data optically and executing the thinning process of the obtained read signal at the period corresponding to spacial frequency of the pattern image data.

15. A ticket issuing system comprising:

30 means for making security data from ticket issue request data and user identification data sent from a user via a communication means;

means for making ticket image data from the ticket issue request data;

means for making ticket printing data by embedding the security data in the ticket image data, the security data being invisible against the ticket image data when the ticket printing data including the ticket image data and

35 the security data is printed on a ticket paper by the user; and

means for sending the ticket printing data to the user via the communication means.

16. A ticket issuing method comprising the steps of:

40 outputting security data according to ticket issue request data from a user via a communication means, the security data being visible when the security data is printed on a paper;

outputting ticket image data from the ticket issue request data, the ticket image data being visible when the ticket image data is printed on a paper;

45 outputting ticket printing data by embedding the security data in the ticket image data, the security data being invisible against the ticket image data when the ticket printing data including the ticket image data and the security data is printed on a ticket paper by the user; and

sending the ticket printing data to the user via the communication means.

50

55

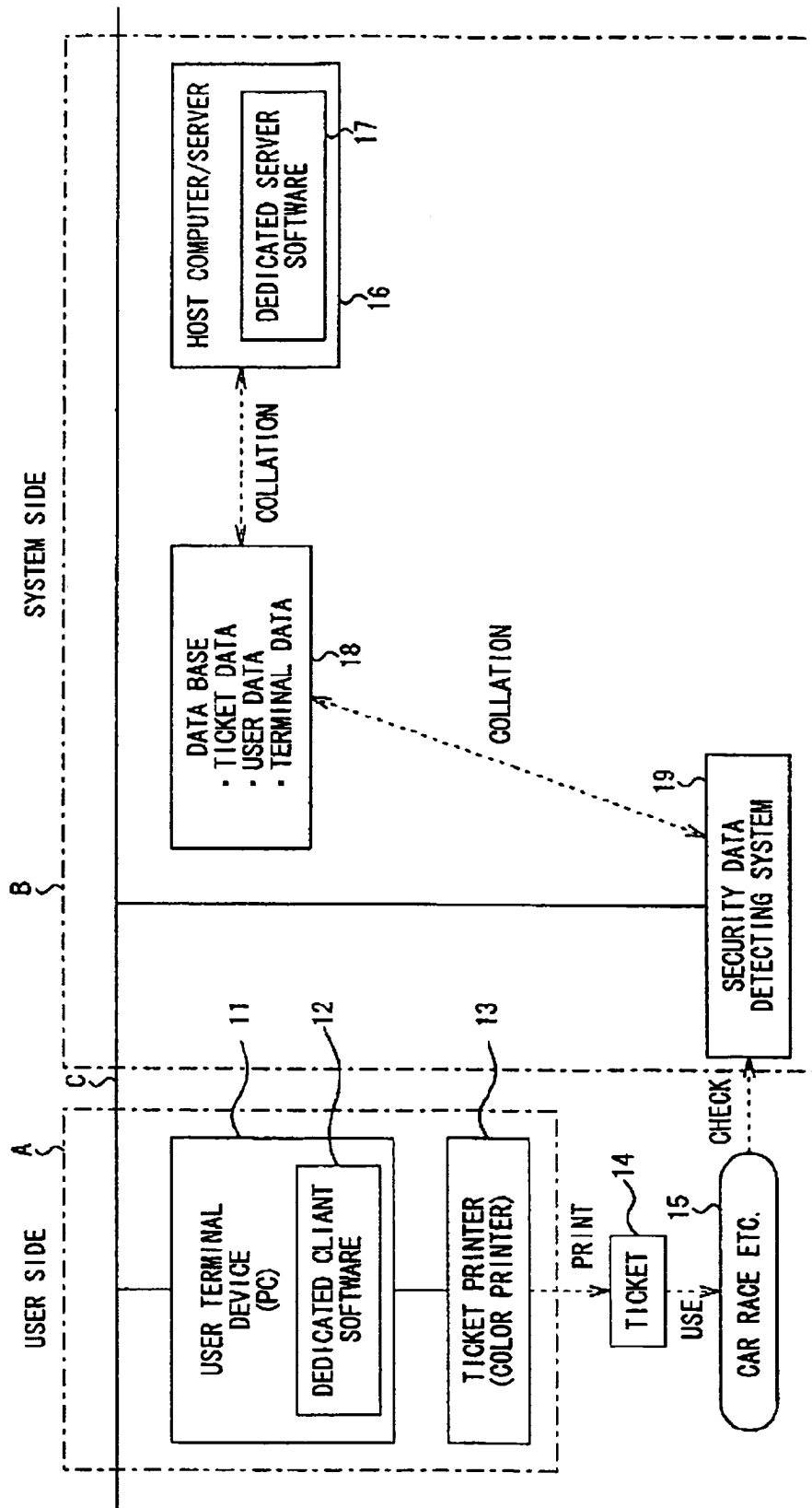


FIG. 1

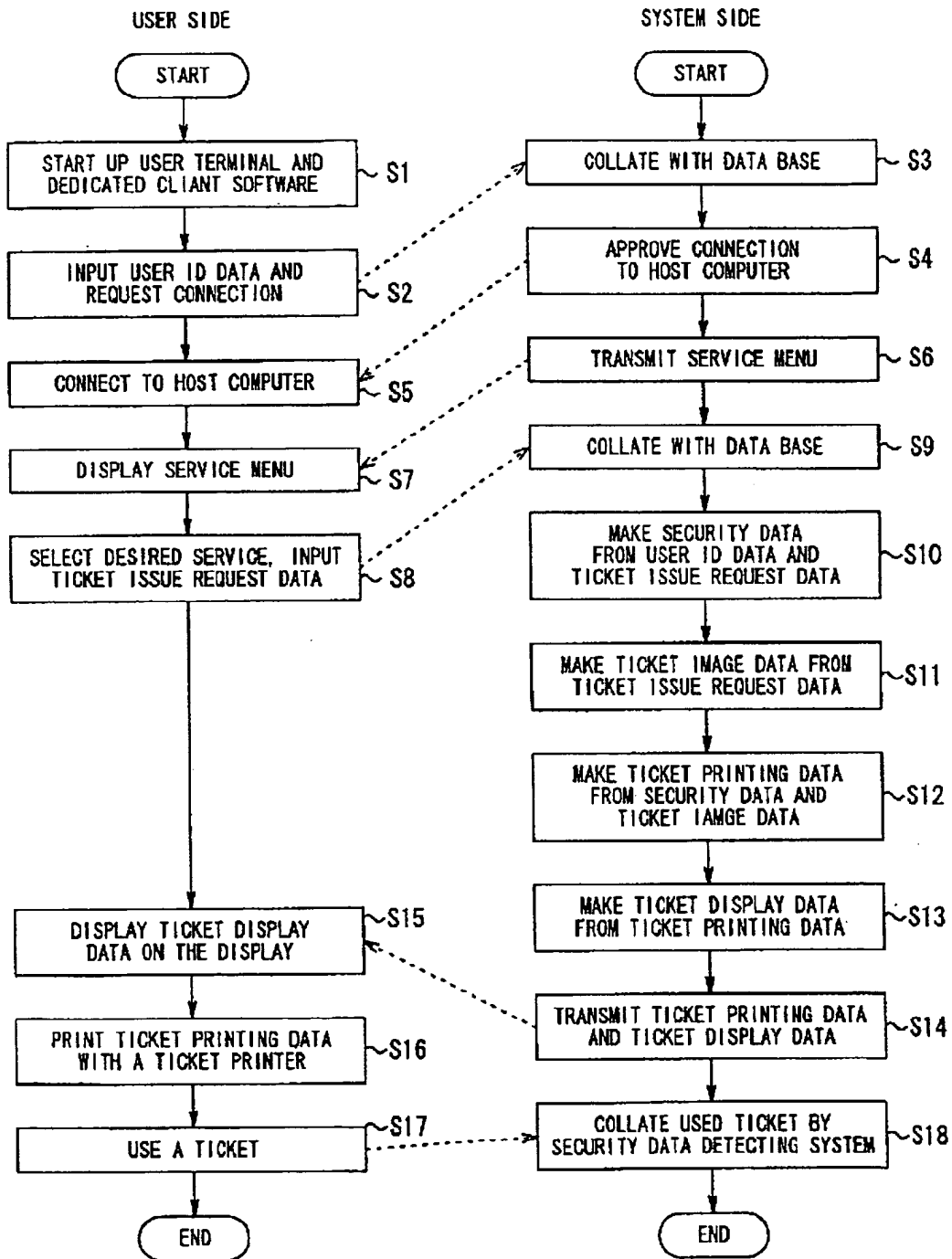


FIG. 2

<p>21</p> <p>'98 ΔΔΔΔ WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES THE □ MATCH</p> <p>JAPAN ○○○○ RACE</p> <p><< FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET >></p> <p>INQUIRY: TO ◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇</p> <p>*** CIRCUIT</p> <p>1998, 12.24 RESERVED SEAT A-12</p> <p>FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET: ADULT: ¥10,000</p> <p>19980925123412345678</p> <p>33</p>	<p>31</p> <p>*** CIRCUIT</p> <p>1998, 12.24</p> <p>FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET: ADULT: ¥10,000</p> <p>19980925123412345678</p> <p>TICKET EAST-WEST-SOUTH-NORTH</p> <p>37</p> <p>38</p> <p>EAST</p>	<p>32</p> <p>*** CIRCUIT</p> <p>1998, 12.24</p> <p>FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET: ADULT: ¥10,000</p> <p>19980925123412345678</p> <p>TICKET EAST-WEST-SOUTH-NORTH</p> <p>35</p> <p>36</p> <p>EAST</p>
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FIG. 3

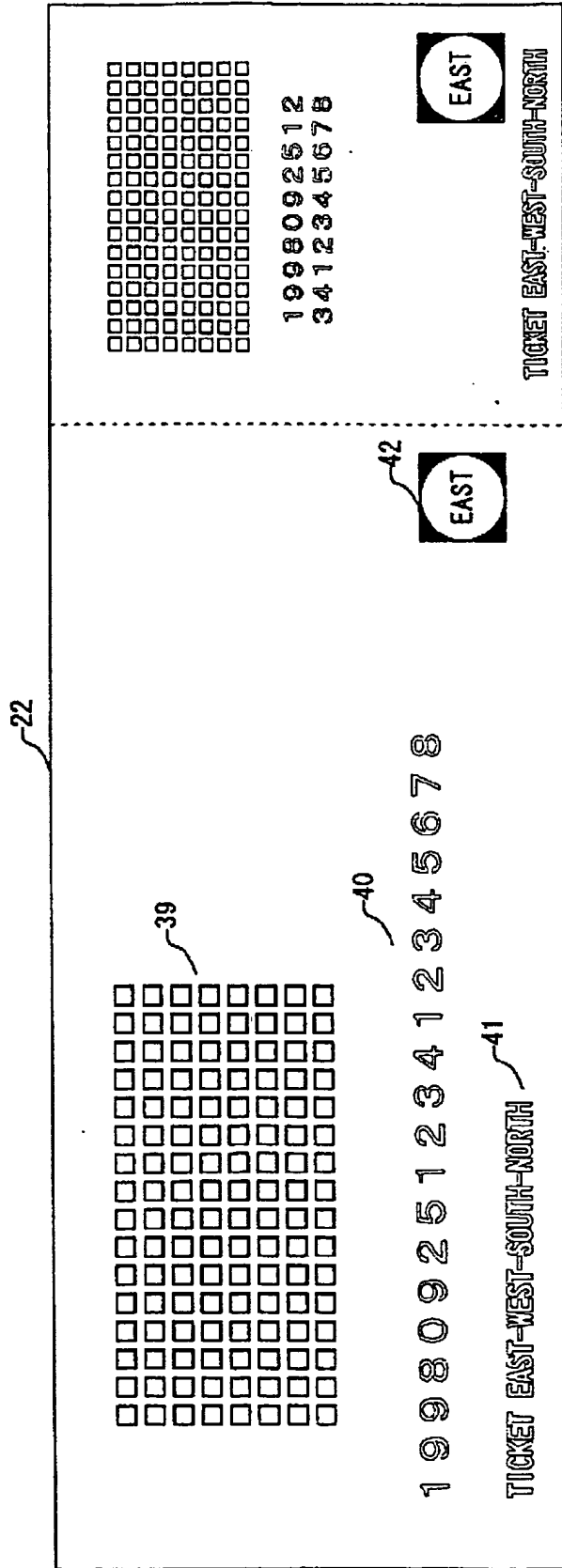


FIG. 4

23

<p>'98 △△△ WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES THE□□MATCH JAPAN ○○○○ RACE << FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET >></p> <p>INQUIRY: TO ◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇</p> <p>*** CIRCUIT 1998, 12.24 RESERVED SEAT A-12</p> <p>FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET: ADULT: ¥10,000</p> <p>19980925123412345678</p>	<p>'98 △△△ WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES THE□□MATCH JAPAN ○○○○ RACE << FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET >></p> <p>*** CIRCUIT 1998, 12.24 FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET: ADULT: ¥10,000</p> <p>19980925123412345678 TICKET EAST-WEST-SOUTH-NORTH</p>
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FIG. 5

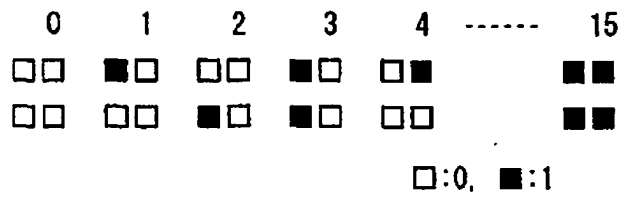


FIG. 6

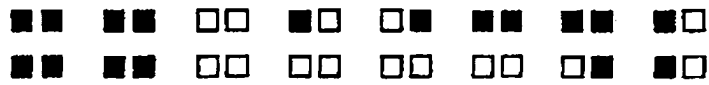
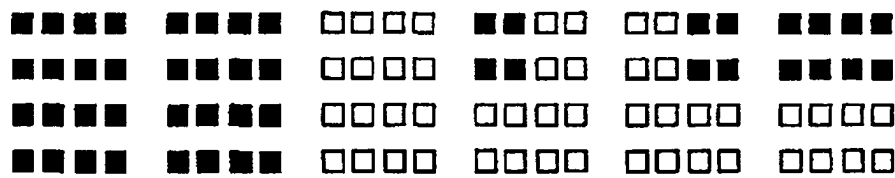


FIG. 7



IN THE CASE OF $n = 2$

FIG. 8

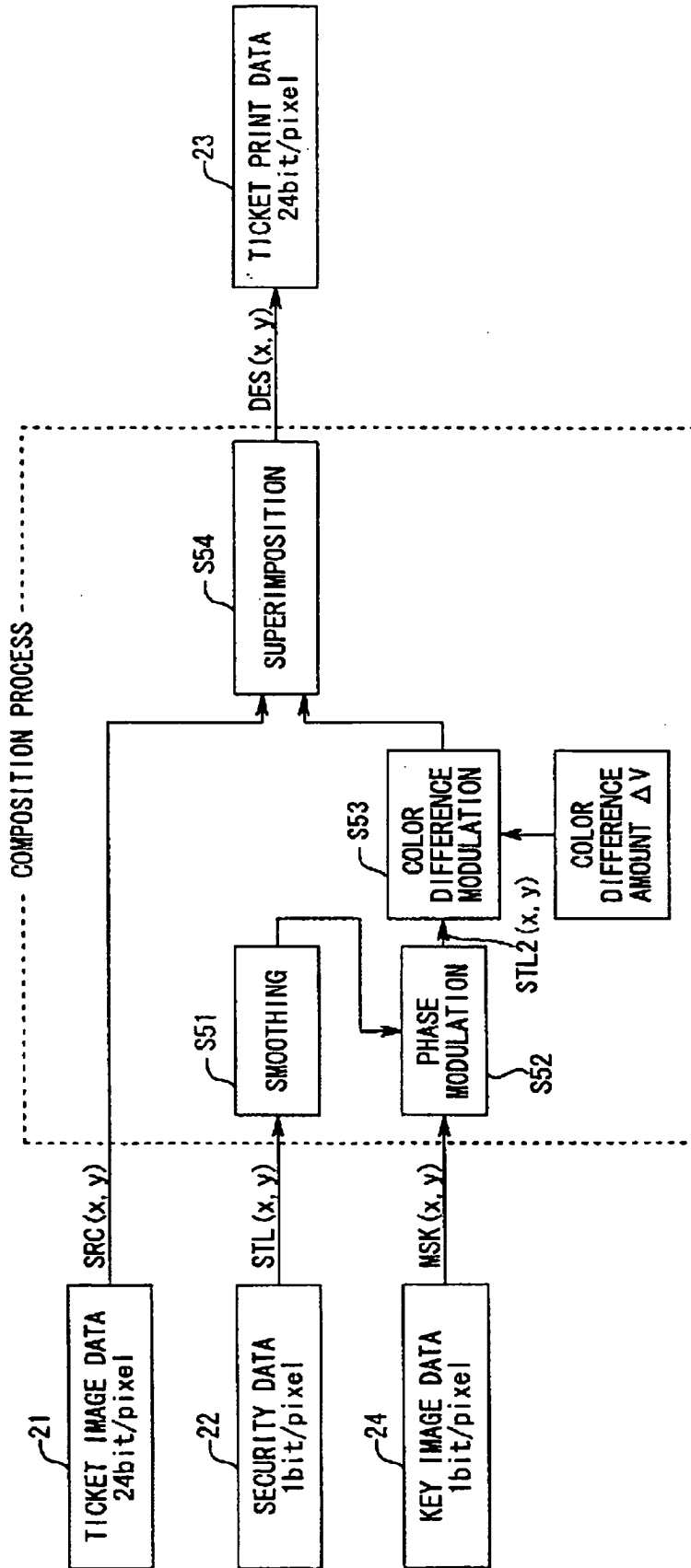


FIG. 9

KEY IMAGE

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
2	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
3	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
4	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
5	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
6	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
7	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
8	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
9	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
10	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
11	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1

FIG. 10

SECURITY DATA

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
3	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
4	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
5	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

FIG. 11

RESULTS OF SMOOTHING PROCESS

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x
1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x
2	x	0.25	0.75	1	1	0.75	0.25	0	0	0.25	0.75	1	1	0.75	0.25	x
3	x	0.25	0.75	1	1	0.75	0.25	0	0	0.25	0.75	1	1	0.75	0.25	x
4	x	0.25	0.75	1	1	0.75	0.25	0	0	0.25	0.75	1	1	0.75	0.25	x
5	x	0.25	0.75	1	1	0.75	0.25	0	0	0.25	0.75	1	1	0.75	0.25	x
6	x	0	0	0	0	0.25	0.75	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.75	0.25	x
7	x	0	0	0	0	0.25	0.75	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.75	0.25	x
8	x	0	0	0	0	0.25	0.75	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.75	0.25	x
9	x	0	0	0	0	0.25	0.75	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.75	0.25	x
10	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x
11	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x

FIG. 12

RESULTS OF PHASE MODULATION

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
4	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
6	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
8	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
10	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
11	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1

FIG. 13

RESULTS OF COLOR DIFFERENCE MODULATION: RED COMPONENT

$\frac{y}{x}$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48
1	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48
2	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48
3	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	+48	-48	-48	-48	-48	-48	-48
4	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	-48	+48	-48	+48	+48	+48	+48
5	+48	+48	-48	+48	-48	-48	-48	+48	+48	+48	-48	+48	-48	-48	-48	-48
6	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	+48	+48
7	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	-48	-48
8	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	+48	+48
9	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	-48	-48
10	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48
11	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48

FIG. 14

RESULTS OF SUPERIMPOSITION PROCESS : RED COMPONENT

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175
1	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79
2	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175
3	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79
4	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175
5	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79
6	79	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	175	175
7	175	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	79	79
8	79	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	175	175
9	175	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	79	79
10	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175
11	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79

FIG. 15

MAKING OF TICKET DISPLAY DATA-SMOOTHING PROCESS : RED COMPONENT

$\begin{matrix} y \\ x \end{matrix}$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1	x	132	132	132	132	143	143	132	132	132	132	132	132	143	143	x
2	x	132	122	122	132	132	122	122	132	132	122	122	132	132	122	x
3	x	132	132	132	132	143	143	132	132	132	132	132	132	143	143	x
4	x	122	122	122	122	111	111	122	122	122	122	122	122	111	111	x
5	x	122	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	122	122	132	143	143	x
6	x	122	122	122	122	111	111	122	122	122	122	122	122	111	111	x
7	x	122	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	122	122	132	143	143	x
8	x	132	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	132	132	122	111	111	x
9	x	122	132	132	122	122	132	132	122	122	132	132	122	122	132	x
10	x	132	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	132	132	122	111	111	x
11	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

FIG. 16

MAKING OF TICKET DISPLAY DATA-THINNING PROCESS : RED COMPONENT

$\begin{array}{c} y \\ \hline x \end{array}$	0	1	2	3
0	132	143	132	143
1	122	132	132	143
2	122	122	122	122

FIG. 17

RESULTS OF RECOVERY(a) : RED COMPONENT

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175
1	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79
2	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175
3	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79
4	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175
5	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79
6	79	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	175	175
7	175	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	79	79
8	79	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	175	175
9	175	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	79	79
10	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175
11	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79

FIG. 18

RESULTS OF RECOVERY(b) : RED COMPONENT

$\begin{smallmatrix} y & x \end{smallmatrix}$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	x	x	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	x	x
3	x	x	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	x	x
4	x	x	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	x	x
5	x	x	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	x	x
6	x	x	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	x	x
7	x	x	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	x	x
8	x	x	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	x	x
9	x	x	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	x	x
10	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
11	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

FIG. 19

RESULTS OF THINNING PROCESS : RED COMPONENT

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	79				79				79				79			
1																
2																
3																
4	79				175				79				175			
5																
6																
7																
8	79				79				175				175			
9																
10																
11																

FIG. 20

RESULTS OF INTERPOLATING PROCESS: RED COMPONENT

$\begin{array}{c} y \\ x \end{array}$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
1	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
2	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
3	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
4	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175
5	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175
6	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175
7	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175
8	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175
9	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175
10	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175
11	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175

FIG. 21

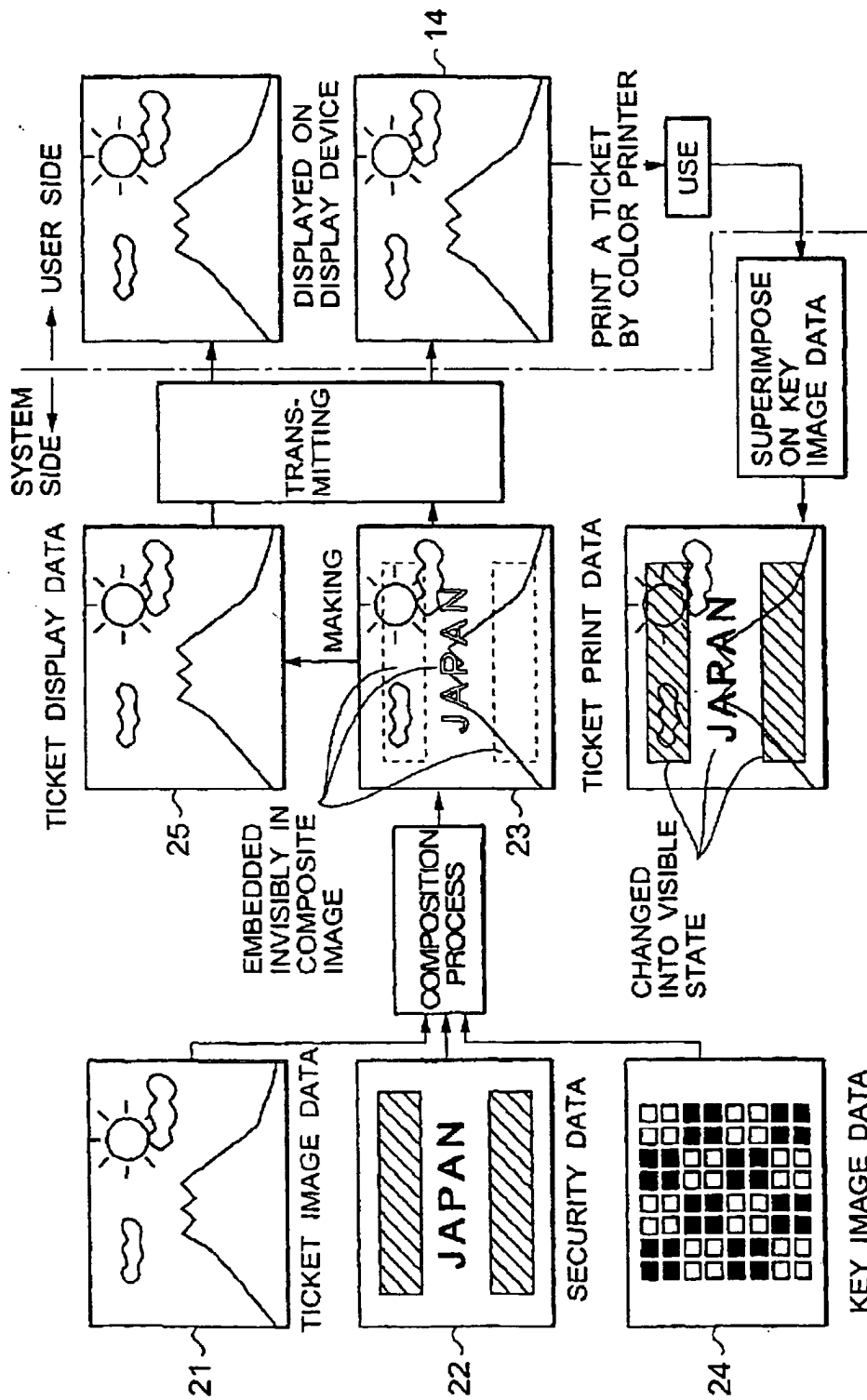


FIG. 22

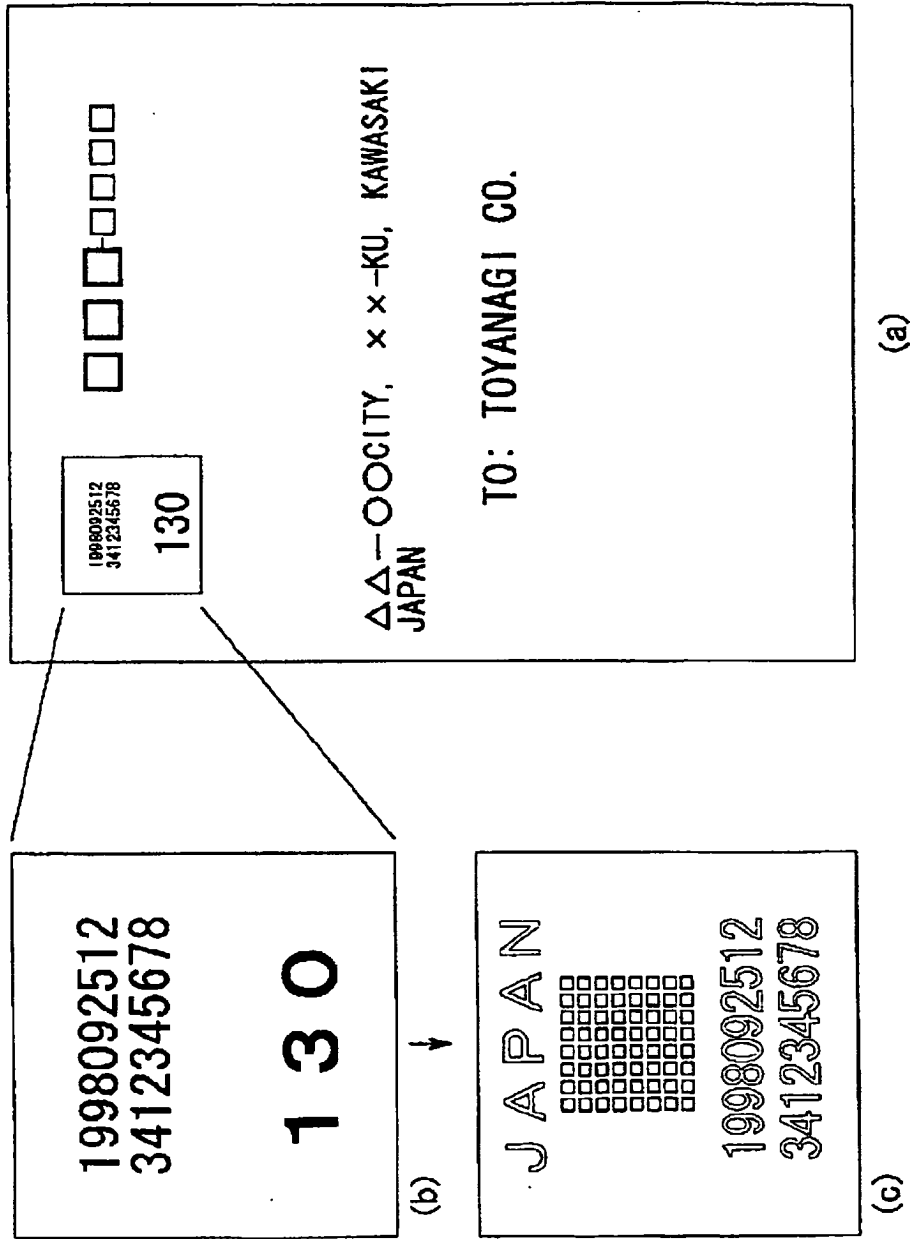


FIG. 23

the color difference amount ΔV increases, the visualization contrast at the time of restoration of the embedded image data increases and it can be easily reproduced. However, when the visualization contrast increases excessively, the security data is easily exposed. Therefore, it is desirable that the color difference amount ΔV is within the range from 16 to 96, though $\Delta V = 48$ is used here.

[0062]

Finally, at Step 54 of the superimposition process, when the superimposition process indicated by the following formulas (4-1) to (4-3) is performed from the color difference modulation results at Step 53 of color difference modulation and the ticket image data 21, ticket print data 23 is generated.

[0063]

$$\text{DESR}(i) = \text{VR}(i) + \text{SRCR}(i) \text{ ----- (4-1)}$$

$$\text{DESG}(i) = \text{VG}(i) + \text{SRCG}(i) \text{ ----- (4-2)}$$

$$\text{DESB}(i) = \text{VB}(i) + \text{SRCB}(i) \text{ ----- (4-3)}$$

In this case, $\text{DESR}(i)$: superimposition results of pixel $x=i$, red component

integer within the range from 0
to 255,

$\text{DESG}(i)$: superimposition results of pixel
 $x=i$, green component

integer within the range from 0

to 255,

DESB(i): superimposition results of
pixel x=i, blue component

integer within the range from 0
to 255,

SRCR(i): embedded image data of pixel x=i,
red component

integer within the range from 0
to 255,

SRCG(i): embedded image data of pixel x=i,
green component

integer within the range from 0
to 255, and

SRCB(i): embedded image data of pixel x=i,
blue component

integer within the range from 0
to 255.

DESR(i), DESG(i), and DESB(i) are integers within the
range from 0 to 255, so that when the calculation
result is less than 0, they are set to 0 and when the
calculation result is more than 255, they are set to
255.

[0064]

The results of the red component when for all the
pixels of the ticket image data 21, (R, G, B) = (127,
127, 127) are shown in Fig. 15. All the values are

equal to integers within the range from 0 to 255 and 255 indicates that the amount of red component is most. In Fig. 15, the value of the (0, 0) pixel is 79, and the value of the (1, 0) pixel is 79, and the value of the (2, 0) pixel is 175, and in the portion where no security data is embedded, a pixel having little red component and a pixel having much red component are repeated in units of two pixels.

[0065]

As shown by the formulas (3-1) to (3-3) or the formulas (3-4) to (3-6), the color difference amounts of red, green, and blue are reversed. Therefore, in pixels having much red component, the green and blue colors are less and in pixels having little red component, the other components are much. The red color and the (green, blue)=cyan color have a bearing of a complementary color and when the red color and cyan color are adjacent to each other, they cannot be easily discriminated by the human eyes and are seen as an achromatic color. Red rich pixels and cyan rich pixels are repeatedly arranged in units of several pixels according to the key image data, so that fine color differences of these colors cannot be discriminated by the human eyes and the color difference amount is judged as plus or minus 0.

[0066]

For example, in the aforementioned formula (4-1), it is judged by mistake as:

DESR(i) SRCR(i) ----- (5)

and it is not distinguished that the image data is embedded. Therefore, based on this principle, ticket print data that the security data is embedded in the ticket image data in the invisible state can be created.

[0067]

When printing data by a color printer using the ticket print data, as the color difference amount ΔV increases, it can be discriminated more easily, so that the easiness degree of restoration of the security data increases. However, in this case, the security data embedded in the ticket print data in the invisible state may be easily found out by a third person.

[0068]

Accordingly, when printing and outputting the ticket print data by a color printer, by performing the error diffusion process as an image process and outputting the ticket print data, the security data can be prevented from exposure without breaking the security data. By doing this, the density of each pixel of the ticket print data is compensated by the error diffusion process and the data of the security

data in the invisible state is saved on a macro basis.

[0069]

When the error diffusion process is performed, the low frequency component decreases and the high frequency component increases. The security data embedded in the ticket print data is composed of a high frequency component, so that other high frequency components are mixed in by the error diffusion process and hence the security data enters the state that those other components cannot be visually discriminated.

[0070]

Next, the ticket display data generation method will be explained.

[0071]

Ticket display data that the ticket print data is partially reduced, and the ticket image data and security data embedded in the invisible state are partially broken, and they cannot be used as they are is generated. Firstly, the ticket print data shown in Fig. 15 is separated into areas of 3×3 pixels and the smoothing process is performed for them. The process simply gets the average and the results are shown in Fig. 16. When the pixel data at the vertex of the area of 4×4 pixels is left from the smoothing results shown in Fig. 16 and the remainder is erased

(thinned out), the results are as shown in Fig. 17.
This is ticket display data.

[0072]

In this case, the data amount is about 1/4 of the ticket print data. The print image resolution is generally about 300 to 600 dpi, while the image resolution of the display screen is about 100 dpi and hence the data amount is about 1/3 to 1/6. Therefore, there is no problem.

[0073]

As mentioned above, when the ticket print data is not displayed on the user terminal device 11 as it is and ticket display data is generated by reducing the ticket print data and breaking the security data and displayed on the user terminal device 11, since the process (display) is fast because the data amount is small and the security data and ticket image data are partially broken, even if it is attempted to unfairly get them by hard copy of the screen, they cannot be used. Therefore, there is an advantage that the security improves more.

[0074]

Since the ticket print data and ticket display data are not apparently different from general images, for example, the general-purpose image formats such as JPEG and TIFF can be used and since they can be

processed by the application for handling general images, the system can be constructed comparatively easily.

[0075]

Even if the image format of the ticket print data is converted to another one in the system, the embedded security data remains as it is and no problem arises.

[0076]

Meanwhile, the ticket 14 that the ticket print data is printed and output by the ticket printer 13 such as a color printer is used by a user at the concert place. In this case, the system side detects the security data of the used ticket 14 and hence can discriminate the truth of the ticket. It will be explained hereunder in detail.

[0077]

The image on the ticket surface of the ticket 14 which is printed on a paper by the ticket printer 13 is read by an optical reading means such as a scanner, converted to digital data, and put into the state shown in Fig. 15 and the security data 22 is restored.

[0078]

To restore the security data 22, the key image data 24 shown in Fig. 10 is used. The key image data 24 and the value of the ticket surface image of the

ticket print data 23 read by the scanner are allowed to have a one-to-one correspondence and it is judged that in the portion where the value of the key image data 24 is 1, the data of the ticket print data 23 is valid and in the portion where the value of the key image data 24 is 0, the data of the ticket print data 23 is invalid. The results are shown in Fig. 18. In the drawing, the hatched pixels are invalid data. The valid data (represented by a void) in Fig. 18 are separated in the predetermined size.

[0079]

Since the security data 22 of this embodiment is set at $n = 4$ and the security data 22 is extended to 4 times, the two pixels of the margin to embed on the periphery are removed and then the security data 22 is separated in units of 4×4 pixels. When the value of valid data within the range of 4×4 pixels is a red rich value (175 in this embodiment), the embedded image data (security data) is 1 and when it is a cyan rich value (79 in this embodiment), the embedded image data is 0. When the valid data includes both red rich value and cyan rich value, the larger value is used.

[0080]

The cause is the smoothing process of the synthetic process. The results when the embedded image data (security data) 22 is restored by this

method is shown in Fig. 19. The portions of the thick line frames shown in the drawing are portions of the security data 22 and coincide with those shown in Fig. 11 and it shows that the security data 22 is completely restored.

[0081]

In this embodiment, for example, data is printed by a sublimation type thermal printer at a resolution of 400 dpi and read by an optical scanner at a resolution of 1200 dpi and then the restoration process is performed. The security data 22 can be restored without trouble.

[0082]

By the second restoration and detection method for the security data, when a reproduced sheet having the transmission distribution rate of the same pattern as that of the key image data 24 is physically superimposed on the print surface of the ticket 14, the security data 22 can be seen visually and the logo mark in the security data 22 can be directly confirmed by the check by the human sense of sight. This method does not require troublesome operations and a complicated device, so that there is an advantage that the truth can be simply discriminated at any location.

[0083]

Furthermore, as a third security data

restoration and detection method, a method for thinning out a value read by an optical means will be explained hereunder. The red component of a value read by a scanner is assumed as shown in Fig. 15. In this embodiment, a check pattern in units of 4×2 is used for the synthetic process, so that it is thinned out in units of 4 pixels. To this value, the extension rate n at the time of generation of the security data is also related and the relation of "lattice unit of check pattern \times extension rate $n \geq$ No. of pixels to be thinned out" is held.

[0084]

When the pixel data shown in Fig. 15 is thinned out in units of 4 pixels, the results shown in Fig. 20 are obtained. In this state, the pixel data is insufficient, so that when the areas of 4×2 with the remaining pixels set at vertexes are all set to the same value, the results shown in Fig. 21 are obtained and they are shifted by 2 pixels respectively in the x direction and y direction, though it shows that the security data 22 shown in Fig. 11 is restored 100%. By thinning out the read image data like this, the number of pixels for which the process for restoration is to be performed reduces, so that the security data 22 can be restored at high speed.

[0085]

By detecting the existence of the security data 22 embedded in the used ticket 14 as mentioned above, the truth of the ticket 14 can be simply discriminated. For example, even when the ticket 14 is passed into third person's hands and unfairly copied by a color copying machine, since the inquiry serial number is put in the security data 22, the history of the ticket such as when, where, and to whom the ticket is issued can be simply found and the unfair route can be simply ascertained.

[0086]

In this embodiment, the synthetic process is performed using a check pattern in units of 4×2 as a key. Therefore, when the synthetic process is performed using a check pattern of 1×1 , the effect of copy prevention for a color copying machine is obtained more. The reason is that when a square lattice of 1×1 or 2×2 is used, in the ticket print data, red rich and cyan rich pixel data are arranged alternately and regularly by the synthetic process.

[0087]

The sensor in the scanner portion such as a color copying machine is not a point but has a finite area, so that for example, even if the reading resolution of the scanner is the same as the ticket print resolution, the sensor pixels of the scanner and the

pixels of the ticket print data are seen in the finely shifted state. In this case, the red and cyan colors have a relation of complementary color, so that it is difficult to separate pixels arranged at a very fine pitch, and they are recognized as a gray color by mistake not only by human eyes but also by the sensor, and the copying operation cannot be performed normally.

[0088]

According to this embodiment, it is possible to remarkably enhance the security of tickets. However, since the security data is embedded in the invisible state, some means is necessary to restore it and it is troublesome to perform the operation for all tickets.

[0089]

Therefore, it is necessary to distinguish a ticket with the security data embedded in the invisible state from a ticket with no security data embedded which is guaranteed to be a regular ticket by some means. For example, when a means for printing the logo mark of a ticket with the security data embedded in red and printing the logo mark of a ticket with no security data embedded in blue is used, tickets can be simply checked and the time and cost can be saved greatly.

[0090]

Fig. 22 schematically shows the situation from issuing of a ticket to detection of the security data which is mentioned above. For the ticket image data 21, a landscape picture is used. For the security data 22, the logo mark "JAPAN" as copyright data and the two-dimensional bar code for checking by the human sense of sight and checking by the machine which are converted to security data according to the procedure indicated in this embodiment are used.

[0091]

Firstly, the synthetic process is performed for the ticket image data 21, the security data 22, and the key image data 24 by the aforementioned method and the ticket print data 23 is generated. The image of the ticket print data 23 is seen just as a landscape picture by human eyes, though the copyright data and others are embedded in it in the invisible state. From the ticket print data 23, the ticket display data 25 is generated by the method indicated in this embodiment.

[0092]

Next, the ticket print data 23 and the ticket display data 25 which are generated are sent to a user requesting ticket issue via the network. The user receiving the ticket display data 25 displays the

ticket display data 25 on the display of the user terminal device 11, confirms the contents, and then prints and outputs the ticket print data 23 by the ticket printer 13 such as a color printer and obtains the ticket 14.

[0093]

The user can use the ticket 14 issued and the system side detects the security data of the used ticket 14 using the key image data and discriminates the truth by checking the data base and security data.

[0094]

In the ticket 14 issued, the security data including the copyright data is embedded in the invisible state, so that by the aforementioned restoration method, the copyright data can be restored.

[0095]

Fig. 23 shows an example that the ticket issue method of the present invention is applied to an electronic stamp. Fig. 23(a) shows ticket print data, and Fig. 23(b) shows a stamp image portion, and Fig. 23(c) shows security data embedded in the stamp image portion in the invisible state. Particularly, to allow a user to issue an article equivalent to money in value like a stamp, the security is important. When the security data is also embedded in an

electronic stamp in the invisible state like the
aforementioned concert ticket and the ticket (stamp)
print data is directly printed on an envelope, an
electronic stamp can be realized.

[0096]

In the case of such a mail, the mechanical process
such as reading of the address is generally performed,
so that by discriminating the truth by reading the
security data embedded in the electronic stamp by the
sensor at that time, the security can be maintained.
By printing the destination address and name at the
same time when printing and outputting a stamp by a
color printer like this, the cost can be reduced
greatly.

[0097]

[Effects of the Invention]

As mentioned above in detail, according to the
present invention, a ticket issue method which can
simply issue tickets with high security via a
communication means such as a network or telephone
lines can be provided.

[0098]

Furthermore, according to the present invention,
a ticket check method which can simply discriminate
the truth of tickets issued by the aforementioned
ticket issue method and when an unfair ticket is found,

can easily conduct a follow-up study of it can be provided.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

Fig. 1 is a block diagram schematically showing the constitution of a ticket issue system for realizing the ticket issue method relating to the embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a flow chart for explaining the operation procedure of ticket issue.

Fig. 3 is a drawing showing an example of ticket image data when the present invention is applied to concert tickets.

Fig. 4 is a drawing showing an example of security data when the present invention is applied to concert tickets.

Fig. 5 is a drawing showing an example of ticket print data when the present invention is applied to concert tickets.

Fig. 6 is a drawing for explaining converting to a binary image by a two-dimensional code of security data.

Fig. 7 is a drawing for explaining converting to a binary image by a two-dimensional code of security data.

Fig. 8 is a drawing for explaining converting to a binary image by a two-dimensional code of security

data.

Fig. 9 is a drawing for explaining the preparation procedure of ticket print data.

Fig. 10 is a drawing showing a concrete calculation example in preparation of ticket print data.

Fig. 11 is a drawing showing a concrete calculation example in preparation of ticket print data.

Fig. 12 is a drawing showing a concrete calculation example in preparation of ticket print data.

Fig. 13 is a drawing showing a concrete calculation example in preparation of ticket print data.

Fig. 14 is a drawing showing a concrete calculation example in preparation of ticket print data.

Fig. 15 is a drawing showing a concrete calculation example in preparation of ticket print data.

Fig. 16 is a drawing showing a concrete calculation example in preparation of ticket print data.

Fig. 17 is a drawing showing a concrete calculation example in preparation of ticket print

data.

Fig. 18 is a drawing showing a concrete calculation example in preparation of ticket print data.

Fig. 19 is a drawing showing a concrete calculation example in preparation of ticket print data.

Fig. 20 is a drawing for explaining the thinning-out process in the third reproduction method.

Fig. 21 is a drawing for explaining the interpolation process in the third reproduction method.

Fig. 22 is a drawing schematically showing the ticket issue method.

Fig. 23 is a drawing for explaining an example that the ticket issue method of the present invention is applied to an electronic stamp.

[Description of Numerals]

A: Apparatus on the user side, B: Apparatus on the system side, C: Network, 11: User terminal device, 13: Ticket printer, 14: Ticket, 16: Host computer/server, 18: Data base, 19: Security data detecting system, 21: Ticket image data, 22: Security data, 23: Ticket print data, 24: Key image data, 51: Smoothing step, 52: Phase modulation step, 53: Color

difference modulation step, 54: Superimposition step

[Document Name] Abstract

[Abstract]

[Problem] The present invention provides a ticket issue method which can simply issue tickets with high security via a communication means such as a network or telephone lines.

[Solving Means] The ticket issue method generates security data from ticket issue request data sent from a user via a network and user identification data, also generates ticket image data from the ticket issue request data, embeds the generated security data in the generated ticket image data in the invisible state, thus generates ticket print data, and sends the generated ticket print data to the user via the network and the user prints a ticket on the basis of the sent ticket print data.

[Selected Drawing] Fig. 2

[Document Name] Drawing

[Fig. 1]

- 1 User side
 - 11 User terminal device
 - 12 Dedicated client software
 - 13 Ticket printer (Color printer)
- 2 Print
 - 14 Ticket
- 3 Use
 - 15 Concert, etc.
- 4 Inspection
- 5 System side
 - 18 Data base
 - Ticket data
 - User data
 - Terminal data
- 6 Check
 - 16 Host computer/server
 - 17 Dedicated server software
- 7 Check
 - 19 Security data detecting system

[Fig. 2]

- 1 User side
 - 2 Start
 - S1 Start the user terminal and dedicated client software.

S2 Request input and connection of user
identification data.

S5 Connect to the host computer.

S7 Display the service menu.

S8 Select the desired service and input the ticket
issue request data.

S15 Display the ticket display data on the display.

S16 Print the ticket print data by the ticket
printer.

S17 Use the ticket.

3 End

4 System side

5 Start

S3 Check with the data base.

S4 The connection to the host computer is permitted.

S6 Send the service menu.

S9 Check with the data base.

S10 Prepare security data from the user
identification data and ticket issue request data.

S11 Prepare ticket image data from the ticket issue
request data.

S12 Prepare ticket print data from the security data
and ticket image data.

S13 Prepare ticket display data from the ticket print
data.

S14 Send the ticket print data and ticket display

data.

S18 Check the used ticket by the security data
detecting system.

6 End

[FIG. 3]

31 '98 △△△△ WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES THE□□
MATCH

JAPAN ○○○○ RACE

<< FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET >>

INQUIRY: TO ◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇

CIRCUIT

32 1998, 12.24

33 RESERVED SEAT: 12

34 FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET: ADULT: ¥10000

35 19989925123412345678

36 TICKET EAST-WEST-SOUTH-NORTH

[Fig. 8]

1 In the case of $n=2$

[Fig. 9]

21 Ticket image data

22 Security data

24 Key image data

1 Synthetic process

51 Smoothing

52 Phase modulation

53 Color difference modulation

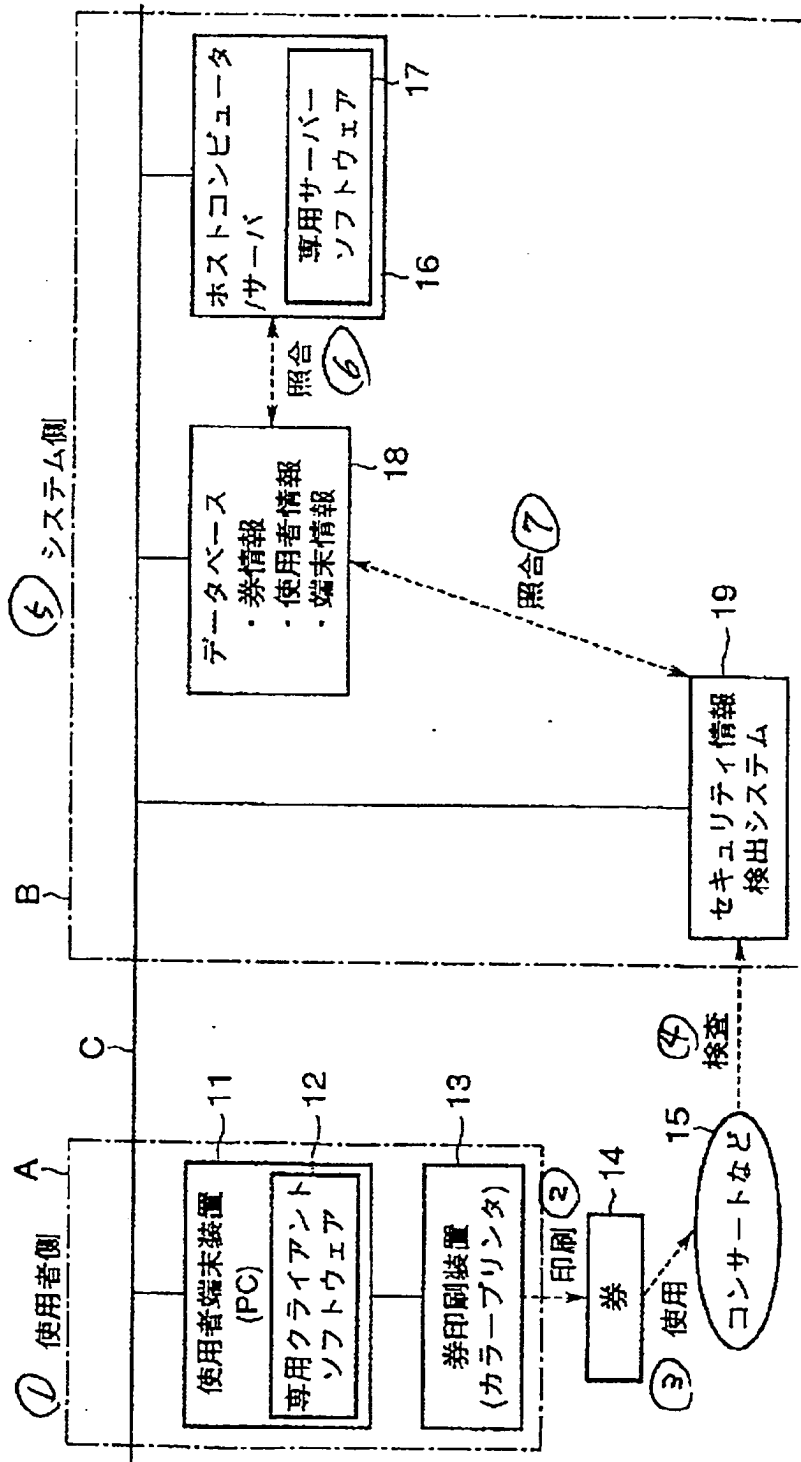
2 Color difference ΔV
 54 Superimposition
 23 Ticket print data
 [Fig. 10] Key image
 [Fig. 11] Security data
 [Fig. 12] Smoothing result
 [Fig. 13] Phase modulation result
 [Fig. 14] Color difference modulation result
 Red component
 [Fig. 15] Superimposition result Red component
 [Fig. 16] Prepare ticket display data
 Smoothing Red component
 [Fig. 17] Prepare ticket display
 Thinned out process Red component
 [Fig. 18] Restoration result (a) Red component
 [Fig. 19] Restoration result (b) Red component
 [Fig. 20] Thinned out process result
 [Fig. 21] Interpolation process result
 [Fig. 22]
 1 Embedded invisibly in composite image
 2 Combining process
 3 Changed into visible state
 4 Ticket display data
 5 Making
 6 Ticket print data
 7 Transmitting

- 8 System side
- 9 Superimpose on key image data
- 10 User side
- 11 Displayed on display device
- 12 Print by color printer
- 13 A ticket
- 14 Use

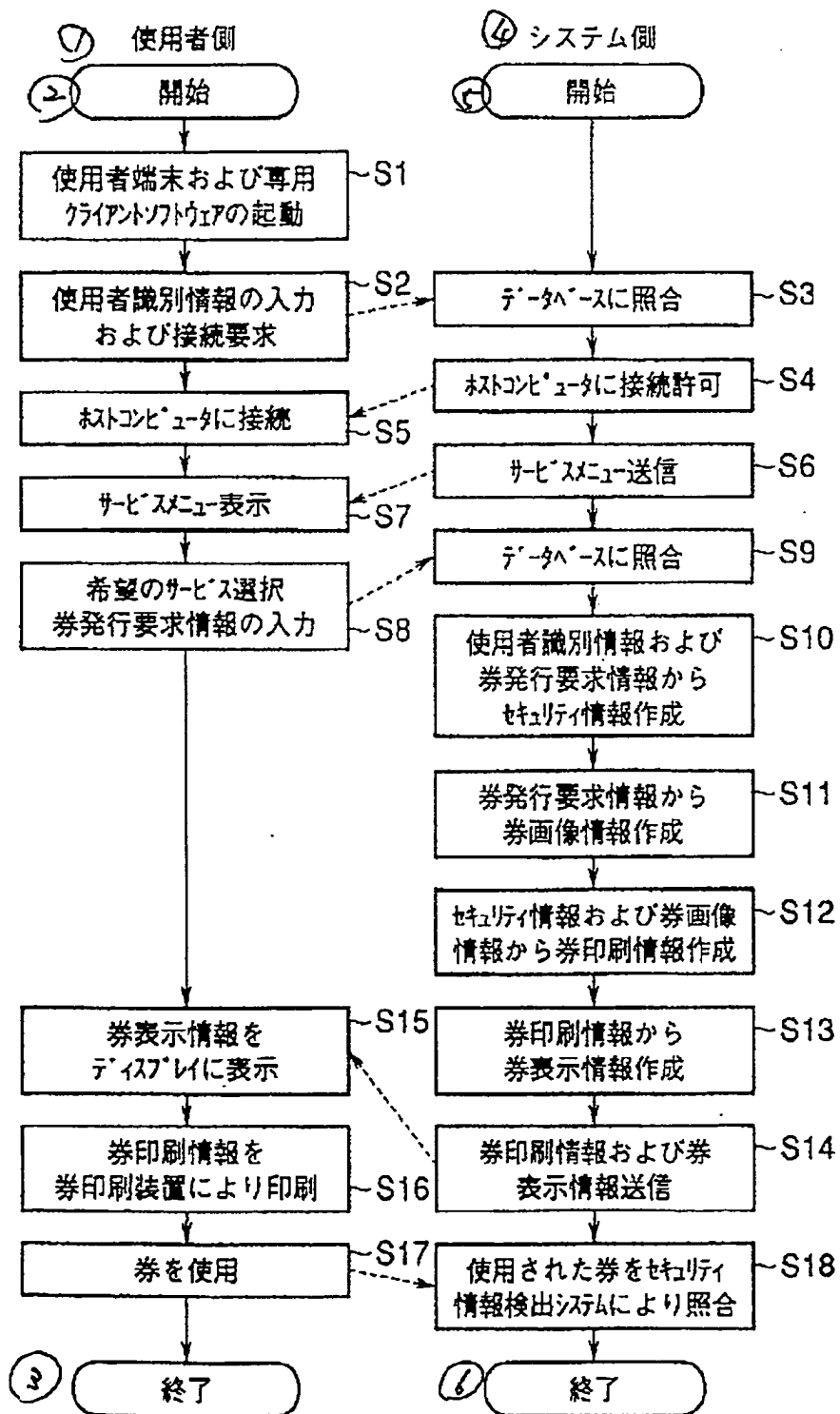
【書類名】

図面

【図1】



【図2】

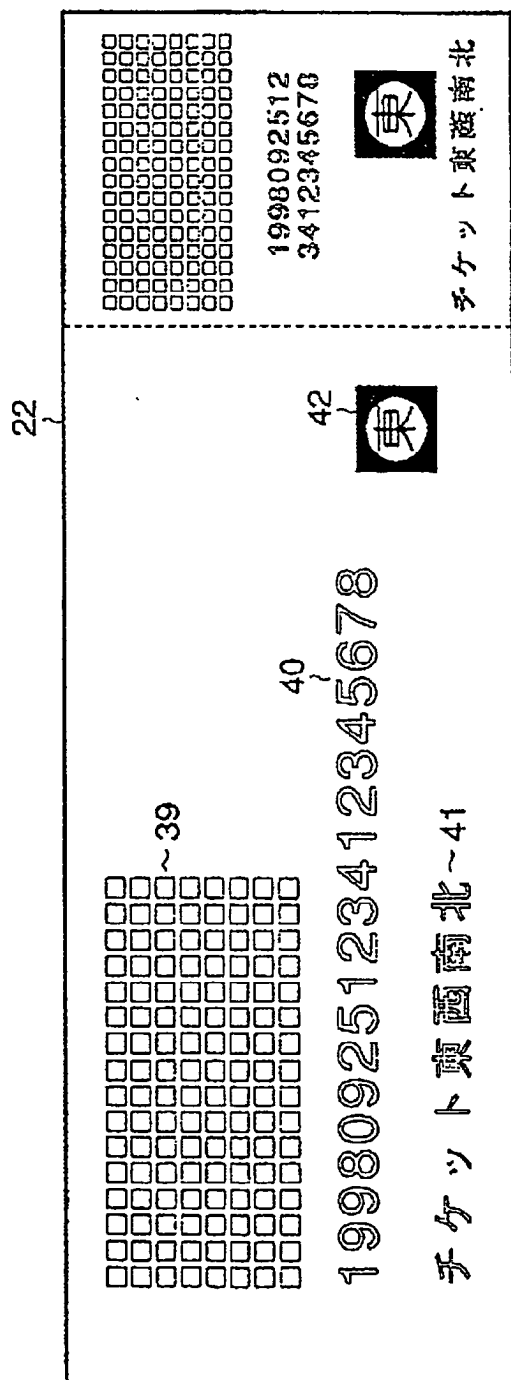


【図3】

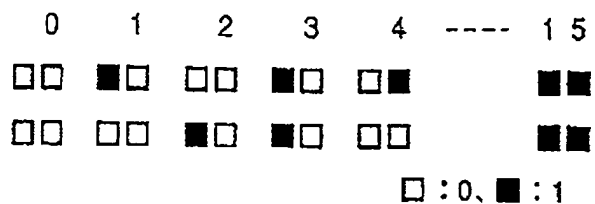
21

<p>' 98△△△△世界選手権シリーズ第□□戦——31</p> <p>日本○○○○○リリース</p> <p><<決勝観戦券>></p> <p>お問い合わせ ◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇</p> <p>***サ—キ—ット³²</p> <p>1998.12.24 指定A-12——34</p> <p>決勝券 大人 ¥10000円——35</p> <p>19980925123412345678³⁶ チケット東西南北——37</p> <div data-bbox="730 819 812 903"> </div>	<p>' 98△△△△世界選手権シリーズ第□□戦</p> <p>日本○○○○○リリース</p> <p><<決勝観戦券>></p> <p>***サ—キ—ット</p> <p>1998.12.24</p> <p>決勝券 大人</p> <p>¥10000円</p> <div data-bbox="730 504 812 588"> </div> <p>19980925123412345678</p> <p>チケット東西南北</p>
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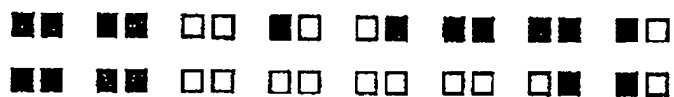
【図4】



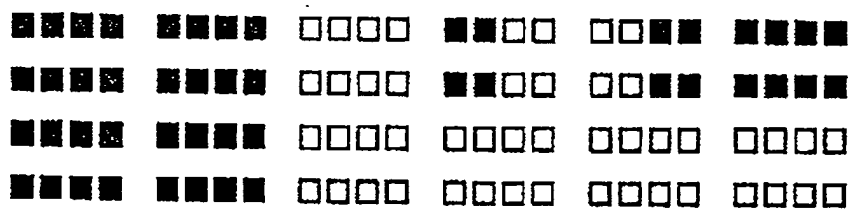
【図6】



【図7】

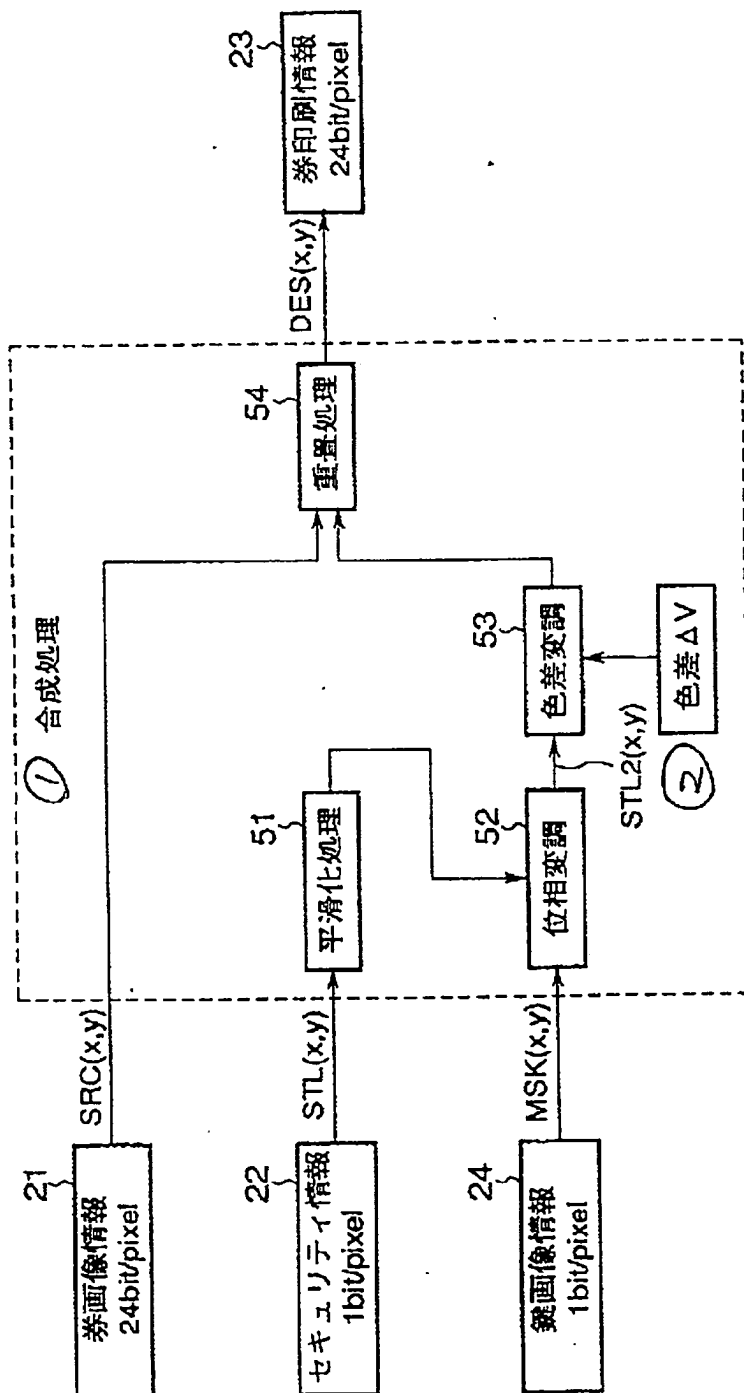


【図8】



① n=2の場合

【図 9】



【図10】

鍵画像											
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
2	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
3	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
4	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
5	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
6	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
7	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
8	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
9	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
10	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
11	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1

【图 1 1】

[illegible]

【図13】

位相変調結果

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
4	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
6	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
8	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
10	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
11	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1

【図14】

色差変調結果 赤成分

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48
1	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48
2	-48	-48	+48	-48	+48	+48	+48	+48	-48	+48	+48	-48	+48	+48	+48	+48
3	+48	+48	-48	+48	-48	-48	-48	-48	+48	-48	-48	+48	-48	-48	-48	-48
4	-48	-48	+48	-48	+48	+48	+48	+48	-48	+48	+48	-48	+48	+48	+48	+48
5	+48	+48	-48	+48	-48	-48	-48	-48	+48	-48	-48	+48	-48	-48	-48	-48
6	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	+48	+48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	+48	+48
7	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	-48	-48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	-48	-48
8	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	+48	+48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	+48	+48
9	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	-48	-48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	-48	-48
10	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	+48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48
11	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	-48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48

【図15】

重量処理結果 赤成分

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175
1	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79
2	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175
3	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79
4	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175
5	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79
6	79	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	175	175
7	175	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	79	79
8	79	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	175	175
9	175	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	79	79
10	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175
11	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79

【図17】

券表示情報作成一問引き処理 赤成分

	0	1	2	3
0	132	143	132	143
1	122	132	132	143
2	122	122	122	122

【図18】

復元結果(a) 赤成分

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175
1	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79
2	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175
3	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79
4	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175
5	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79
6	79	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	175	175
7	175	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	79	79
8	79	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	175	175
9	175	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	79	79
10	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175
11	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79

【圖 19】

[illegible]

【図 20】

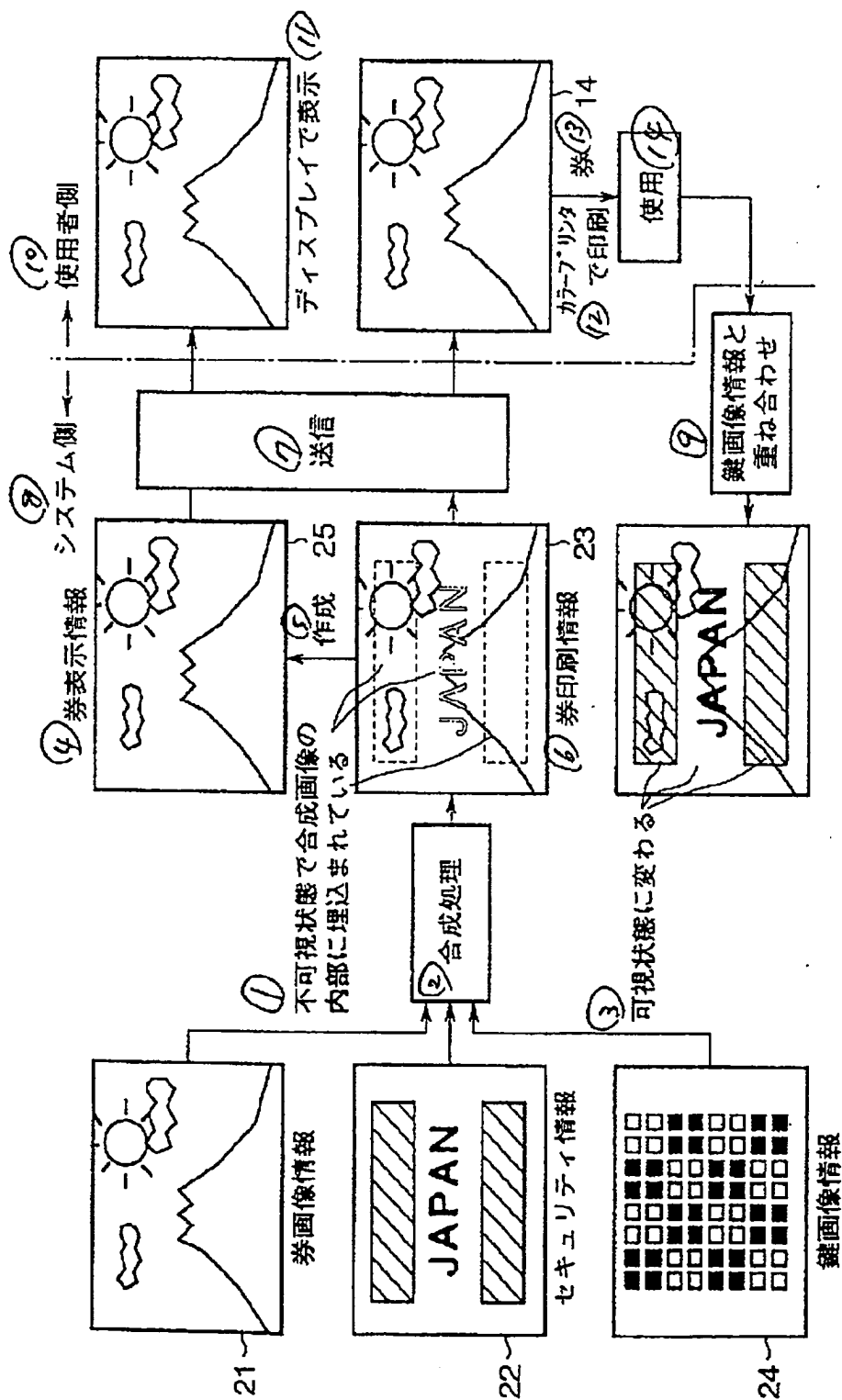
[illegible]

【図21】

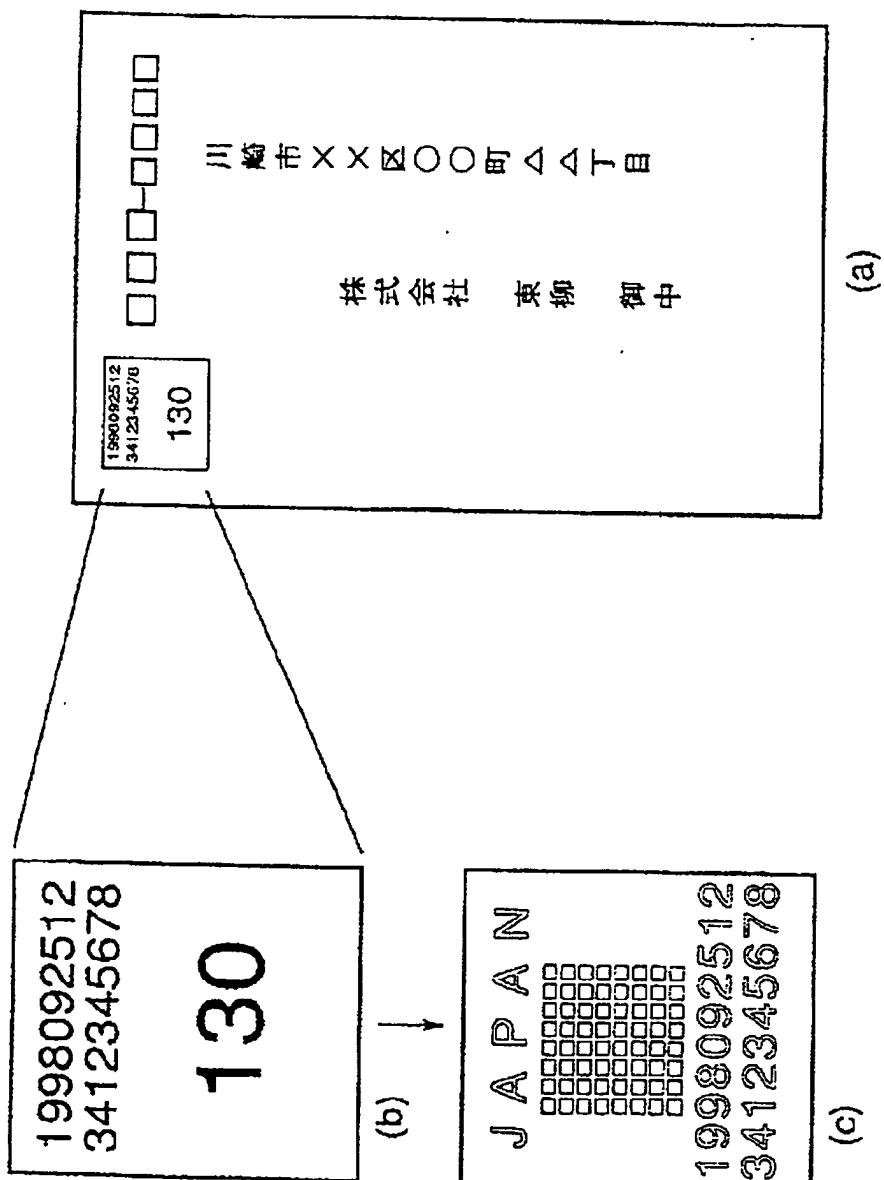
補完処理結果 赤成分


	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
1	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
2	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
3	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
4	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175
5	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175
6	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175
7	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175
8	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175
9	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175
10	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175
11	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175

【図 22】



【図23】



(19)  **Europäisches Patentamt**
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) **EP 1 014 318 A2**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
 28.06.2000 Bulletin 2000/26

(51) Int. Cl.⁷: **G07F 17/42, G07B 1/02**

(21) Application number: 99125264.4

(22) Date of filing: 17.12.1999

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE
 Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

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(54) **Ticket issuing method, ticket issuing system and ticket collating method**

(57) In a ticket issuing method, security data is first made from ticket issue request data and user identification data sent from user via a communication means and then, ticket image data is made from the ticket issue request data and by embedding the security data in the

ticket image data in the invisible state, ticket printing data for printing ticket by user is made. The ticket printing data thus made is sent to user via a communication means.

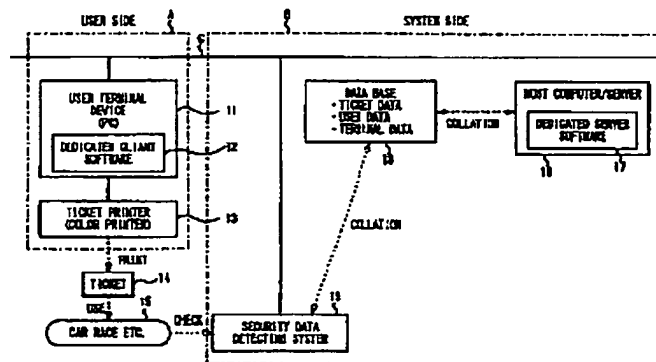


FIG. 1

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a ticket issuing method and a ticket issuing system to issue tickets, for instance, tickets for concerts, tickets of travelling facilities and other tickets by way of a network or a telephone line.

[0002] Further, the present invention relates to a ticket collating method for examining the genuineness of issued tickets.

2. Description of the Related Art

[0003] In recent years, a system is widespread to request tickets for concerts or transport facilities using a network or a telephone line and a requester goes to pick up the requested ticket at a prescribed place. Thus, it is possible to purchase tickets at home or a company.

[0004] Further, based on the widespread of personal computers and color printers and improvement of the infrastructure of the communication environment of the internet, etc., a system that is capable of directly issuing tickets that are requested via a network at home or a company is now under the examination.

[0005] Further, such a service is provided recently that when a ticket for a concert is requested via a network, an image for exchanging with a ticket is unloaded on a personal computer at home and record it on a floppy disk, that is then brought to the place of concert for listening the concert.

[0006] Further, a system is also being tested now to request an electronic postage stamp via a network and issue the requested electronic postage stamp at home or a company. For instance, U.S. Patent No. 5,696,507 and U.S. Patent No. 5,666,284, disclosed a method and a system to store postage stamp data including coded postal charge data in a dedicated storage device that is connected to a personal computer and print the stamp data on an envelope.

[0007] However, a dedicated storage device that is connected to a personal computer is required for the method and the system disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,696,507 and U.S. Patent No. 5,666,284 and therefore, a client system structure is restricted. Further, although a postal charge data is coded, it is printed in the visible state on an envelope using a two-dimensional code technology or its applied technology and therefore, there is such a defect that coded data is read relatively easily when a difference in two data is taken and compared and thus, its security is weak.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] An object of the present invention is to provide a ticket issuing method and a ticket issuing system that are capable of simply issuing tickets that have high security by way of communication means such as a network or a telephone line.

[0009] In addition, another object of the present invention is to provide a ticket collating method that is capable of easily examining the genuineness of issued tickets and easily making a follow-up survey when any illegal ticket is detected.

[0010] According to the present invention, a ticket issuing method comprising the steps of making security data from ticket issue request data and user identification data sent from a user via a communication means; making ticket image data from the ticket issue request data; making ticket printing data by embedding the security data in the ticket image data, the security data being invisible against the ticket image data when the ticket printing data including the ticket image data and the security data is printed on a ticket paper by the user; and sending the ticket printing data to the user via a communication means, is provided.

[0011] Further, according to the present invention, a ticket collation method comprising the steps of: making security data from ticket issue request data and user identification data sent from a user via a communication means; making ticket image data from the ticket issue request data; making a prescribed pattern image data; making pattern modulated image data by modulating the prescribed pattern image data by the security data; making ticket printing data by superimposing the pattern modulated image data on the ticket image data; sending the ticket printing data to the user via a communication means; restoring the security data from a ticket printed by the user based on the received ticket printing data; and judging genuineness of the printed ticket according to the restored security data, is provided.

[0012] Further, according to the present invention, a ticket issuing system comprising: means for making security data from ticket issue request data and user identification data sent from a user via a communication means; means for making ticket image data from the ticket issue request data; means for making ticket printing data by embedding the security data in the ticket image data, the security data being invisible against the ticket image data when the ticket printing data including the ticket image data and the security data is printed on a ticket paper by the user; and means for

sending the ticket printing data to the user via a communication means, is provided.

[0013] Further, according to the present invention, a ticket issuing method comprising the steps of: outputting security data according to ticket issue request data from a user via a communication means, the security data being visible when the security data is printed on a paper; outputting ticket image data from the ticket issue request data, the ticket image data being visible when the ticket image data is printed on a paper; outputting ticket printing data by embedding the security data in the ticket image data, the security data being invisible against the ticket image data when the ticket printing data including the ticket image data and the security data is printed on a ticket paper by the user; and sending the ticket printing data to the user via the communication means, is provided.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014]

FIG. 1 is a block diagram schematically showing the structure of a ticket issuing system for achieving a ticket issuing method of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a flowchart for explaining the operating steps of ticket issue;

FIG. 3 is a plan view showing an example of ticket image data when applied to an auto race admission ticket;

FIG. 4 is a plan view showing one example of security data when applied to an auto race admission ticket;

FIG. 5 is a plan view showing one example of ticket printing data when applied to an auto race admission ticket;

FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram for explaining the binary imaging of security data by two-dimensional code;

FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram for explaining the binary imaging of security data by two-dimensional code;

FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram for explaining the binary imaging of security data by two-dimensional code;

FIG. 9 is a block diagram for explaining the ticket printing data preparation step;

FIG. 10 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 11 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 12 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 13 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 14 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 15 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 16 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 17 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 18 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 19 is a diagram showing a definite calculation example in the ticket printing data making;

FIG. 20 is a diagram for explaining the thinning process in a third reproduction method;

FIG. 21 is a diagram for explaining an interpolation process in a third reproduction method;

FIG. 22 is a diagram schematically showing a ticket issuing method; and

FIG. 23 is a diagram for explaining an example when the ticket issue method of the present invention is applied to electronic postage stamps.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0015] Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described below referring to the drawings.

[0016] FIG. 1 is a block diagram schematically showing the structure of a ticket issuing system to achieve the ticket issuing method of the present invention. This ticket issuing system is composed of by connecting a user side apparatus A with a system side apparatus B through such a network C as Internet, LAN, etc.

[0017] Further, "user" referred to here does mean a person who prints a ticket by a printer available at home and uses that ticket and a person who prints a ticket by a printer available at home or installed at a shop for use by other person or shop customer.

[0018] The user side apparatus A is composed of a user terminal device 11 comprising a personal computer, a dedicated client software 12 that operates on a personal computer, and a ticket printer 13 such as a color printer that is connected to the user terminal device 11.

[0019] The system side apparatus B is composed of a host computer/server 16, a dedicated server software 17 that operates on a host computer, a data base 18 that stores ticket data, user data and other data, and a security data detecting system 19.

[0020] Next, a ticket issue operating steps will be explained referring to a flowchart shown in FIG. 2. The host computer/server 16, the dedicated server software 17 and the data base 18 are always in the ready to operate state and users who are registered in the data base 18 are able to use anytime.

[0021] First, a user starts up the user terminal device 11 and the dedicated client software 12 (Step S1) and con-

nects the user terminal device 11 to the host computer/server 16 (Step S5) by inputting user identification data such as a user ID and a password (Step S2).

[0022] The host computer/server 16 collates the input user identification data with data stored in the data base 18 (Step S3) and approves the connection (Step S4) and starts the service when the input data is contained in the registered user list, and rejects the connection if it is not contained in the registered user list.

[0023] When connected to the host computer/server 16 (Step S5), a service menu is displayed on the user terminal device 11 and a user selects a desired service and input ticket issue request data (Step S8). The ticket issue request data referred to here are, in the case of, for instance, a ticket purchasing service, such required data as a kind of desired ticket, date and time, charge, seat reservation, charge paying means, etc.

[0024] When the ticket issue request data are input, the user terminal device 11 transmits these input data to the host computer/server 16. The host computer/server 16 receives the data and collating the data with the data stored in the data base 18 (Step S9), executes a ticket purchasing step. If a desired ticket cannot be purchased, the host computer/server 16 sends a message stating it to the user terminal device 11 and the step returns to the service menu.

[0025] If a ticket is purchasable, the host computer/server 16 outputs security data from the ticket issue request data and user identification data (Step S10), forms ticket image data from the ticket issue request data (Step S11), and makes ticket printing data by embedding the security data in the ticket image data in the invisible state (Step S12). When the security data is printed on a paper, the security data is visible. Further, the host computer/server 16 makes ticket display data based on the ticket printing data (Step S13) and transmits the ticket printing data and the ticket display data to the user terminal device 11 (Step S14). The detailed method for making security data, ticket printing data and ticket display data will be described later.

[0026] The ticket display data sent from the host computer/server 16 is displayed on the display of the user terminal device 11 (Step S15). A user checks the display by looking it and when there is no problem, prints a ticket. That is, when a print command is executed, the ticket printing data is sent from the user terminal device 11 to the ticket printer 13 and a ticket 14 is printed and output (Step S16). When the print is normally completed, a print completion command is executed and when there are any print error, etc., the print command is executed again.

[0027] A user is able to go to a place of concert with a printed ticket and use it as usual (Step S17). At the place of concert, whether the used ticket 14 is a proper ticket is checked using a security data detecting system 19. In the security data detecting system 19, the genuineness of the ticket is judged by collating the detected security data with data stored in the data base 18 (Step S18).

[0028] FIG. 3-FIG. 5 show examples of auto race admission tickets applicable to this embodiment. FIG. 3 shows ticket image data 21, FIG. 4 shows security data 22 and FIG. 5 shows ticket printing data schematically.

[0029] The ticket image data 21 shown in FIG. 3 are generated from the ticket issue request data referring to the data base 18 during the process in Step S11 shown in FIG. 2. On this ticket, a kind of ticket 31, a place 32, a date and time 33, a reserved seat number 34, a charge 35, a serial number 36, a ticket issuer 37 and a logo mark that are required for tickets for a normal concert are printed. These data are also printed on the stub of the ticket. The security data 22 shown in FIG. 4 is generated from the user identification data and the ticket issue request data during the process in Step S10 shown in FIG. 2. This security data 22 is used for the genuineness judgement to check whether a ticket was forged or altered. In this example, such data as a two-dimensional code data 39, a serial number for inquiring 40, a ticket issuer 41, a logo mark are printed on this ticket. Letters and figures are also expressed in binary image.

[0030] The two-dimensional code data 39 is printed for the automatic mechanical process when the security data 22 is read. The kind of ticket 31, place 32, date and time 33, reserved seat number 34, charge 35, serial number 36, ticket issuer 36 and logo mark 38 were converted into two-dimensional codes and contained in this two-dimensional code data 39. Further, the serial number for inquiry 40, ticket issuer 41 and logo mark are provided for checking the security data 22 with the naked eye.

[0031] Numbers of four figures are used for the inquiry serial numbers 36 and 40 in this embodiment. The tickets shown here are composed of data shown in the following table 1.

[Table 1]

Classification	No. of Figure	Data Example	Use
Serial No.	20	1998092512345678	Used for inquiry to Data Base
Date of Issue	8	19980925	Date
Class. Code 1	2	12	Data Base Class. Code
Class. Code 2	4	3412	Kind of Ticket/Area/Form of Contract. etc.
Ticket No.	6	345678	Ticket Issue Order

[0032] In the above table 1, Date of Issue indicates a date when issue of a ticket was requested, Class. Code 1 indicates the data storage location of the data base for search, Class. Code 2 indicates coded kind of ticket and others, and Ticket No. indicates the ticket issue order. Using a serial number comprising these data as a key for collating to the data base 18, it is possible to uniformly manage a large quantity of tickets.

5 [0033] Thus, the security data 22 shown in FIG. 4 is able to check both of man and machine. These data are also printed on the stub of a ticket.

[0034] The ticket printing data 23 shown in FIG. 5, that is, visible data and invisible data are made from the security data and the ticket image data during the process of Step S12 shown in FIG. 2 and an actually usable ticket is produced when these data are printed. The ticket printing data 23 shown in FIG. 5 is made by embedding the security data 22
10 shown in FIG. 4 in the ticket image data 21 shown in FIG. 3 in the invisible state according to a method that is described later. Accordingly, the tickets shown in FIG. 3 and FIG. 5 are quite the same and cannot be discriminated by the naked eye.

[0035] In this embodiment, an inquiry serial number, a ticket issuer and its logo mark are included in the visible state in the ticket image data, and in the invisible state in the security data. Thus, by partially including the data in a ticket in
15 the visible and invisible state, it becomes possible to immediately detect a ticket that is forged or altered through the simple rewriting.

[0036] Further, regarding a logo mark, its location in the visible state is so arranged that it is completely agreed with that in the invisible state. Thus, it becomes very difficult to forge or alter either one or both of logo marks visibly state and invisibly and security of a ticket is further improved.

20 [0037] Next, how to form the security data will be described.

[0038] The security data is composed of two-dimensional code data and binary image such as letters or marks as shown in FIG. 4; however, one of these elements only or both elements may be included.

[0039] When the security data is input in two-dimensional code, the mechanical process becomes possible when detecting the security data and when the security data is input in binary image, the visual process by man becomes
25 possible and these processes are selectable according to a system characteristic. Two-dimensional code and binary image are called the basic security data.

[0040] One example of the partial generation of the two-dimensional code 39 shown in FIG. 4 will be explained.

[0041] The two-dimensional code 39 is printed on a ticket for the mechanical automatic process when the security data is read as mentioned above, and a kind of ticket, etc. are coded and included on the security data. For two-dimen-
30 sionally coded data, it is possible to use not only a kind of ticket but also almost all kinds of forms such as voice, image, text, etc. including individual data such as pre-registered voiceprint and fingerprints of user and, managing data.

[0042] First, it is necessary to convert basic security data into digital data. In the case of basic security data comprising such analog data as voice and voiceprint, they are converted into digital data through the A/D conversion. The data that is already in the digital form is used as it is.

35 [0043] Then, the digitized basic security data is converted into a binary image in two-dimensional code. The basic security data is delimited into 4-bit blocks in order from the top and each block is replaced to a 2x2 pixel black and white binary image according to a value of each block as shown in FIG. 6.

[0044] For instance, when embedded data are arranged in the hexadecimal notation from the top as shown below,
FF 01 45 D3 ...

40 These data are replaced as shown in FIG. 7.

[0045] Further, the binary image data (FIG. 6) is expanded by n times so as not to impair the embedded image data during the smoothing process at the time of the composite process described later. Here, n=2-4 is desirable. The result when the binary image data shown in FIG. 7 was expanded when, for instance, n=2 is shown in FIG. 8.

[0046] In this embodiment, Calra code was applied in the two-dimensional coding; however, other two-dimensional codes such as matrix system two-dimensional codes and Glyph codes are also usable without problem.

45 [0047] In the case where such two-dimensional image data as a character string 41 of "Ticket East-West-South-North" and a logo mark 42 as shown in FIG. 4 are inserted in the security data, these data are converted into binary image data. In this case, it is necessary to unify image resolutions when converting data into binary images and is desirable to bring image resolutions in accord with those of the ticket printing data. Such significant portions including letters,
50 etc. are converted into black components and meaningless portions such as background, etc. are converted into white components.

[0048] The two-dimensional code data and binary image data thus made are arranged in the same size area as the ticket image data as shown in FIG. 4. It is necessary to predetermine the layout by a system for the convenience of a sensor to detect the security data.

55 [0049] Next, the ticket printing data making method (the composite processing method) will be described in detail.

[0050] The ticket image data 21 is data of a so-called ticket itself and is equivalent to FIG. 3. There are data of 24 bits (8 bits for each of RGB) per pixel. The security data 22 is data to be embedded in the ticket image data 21 in the invisible state and is equivalent to FIG. 4. There are 1 bit data per pixel. The key image data 24 is data that becomes a

key for making the ticket printing data and detecting (restoring) the security data. This data is not opened to user and has 1 bit data per pixel.

[0051] First, in the smoothing processing step S51, the smoothing process is executed with the black pixels of the security data made "1" and the white pixels made "0". Here, the pixels at both ends of noteworthy pixels in the x direction are taken, the 3×1 pixel area is cut and a weighted average is taken as shown by the following expression (1).

$$W(i) = (STL(i-1) + 2 \cdot STL(i) + STL(i+1)) / 4 \quad (1)$$

where,

$W(i)$: x = Weighted mean value of i pixel

$STL(i)$: x = Embedded image data of i pixel = 1 or 0

[0052] If the security data was not increased by n times when made, the two-dimensional code data of the security data was destructed in this smoothing process. The more the expansion factor n is larger, the higher the safe factor not to destruct the embedded image data will become but concealed data is apt to be disclosed.

[0053] For instance, when the key image data 24 and the security data 22 are as shown in FIG. 10 and FIG. 11, respectively, the result of the smoothing process becomes as shown in FIG. 12. The embedded data was expanded to 4 times by setting the security data 22 at n=4. Further, two pixels around the outside are set at "0" as the embedding allowance.

[0054] Then, in the phase modulation step S52, based on the result of the smoothing process in the smoothing process step S51, the phase modulation of the key image data 24 is executed according to the rules of the following expressions (2-1)-(2-3).

$$\text{When } W(i)=0 \rightarrow DES(i) = MSK(i) \quad (2-1)$$

$$\text{When } W(i)=1 \rightarrow DES(i) = MSK(i+2) \quad (2-2)$$

$$\text{When other than above} \rightarrow DES(i) = MSK(i+1) \quad (2-3)$$

$DES(i)$: x=i pixel phase modulation result = 1 or 0

$MSK(i)$: x=i pixel key image data = 1 or 0

[0055] Here, the x=0 column and x=15 column are the edges of the image data and therefore, cannot be smoothed and also cannot be applied with the phase modulation. So, at the edge, the exclusive OR of the key image data 24 with the security data 22 is taken. The result of the phase modulation is shown in FIG. 13.

[0056] Then, in the color difference modulation step S53, based on the phase modulation result in the phase modulation step S52, the color difference modulation process is executed according to the rules of the following expressions (3-1)-(3-6). In this case, three components of R(Red), G(Green) and B(Blue) are separately calculated. An example of the color difference modulation result of the red component is shown in FIG. 14.

$$\text{When } DES(i)=1 \rightarrow VR(i) = -\Delta V \quad (3-1)$$

$$\rightarrow VG(i) = +\Delta V \quad (3-2)$$

$$\rightarrow VB(i) = +\Delta V \quad (3-3)$$

$$\text{When } DES(i)=0 \rightarrow VR(i) = +\Delta V \quad (3-4)$$

$$\rightarrow VG(i) = -\Delta V \quad (3-5)$$

$$\rightarrow VB(i) = -\Delta V \quad (3-6)$$

$VR(i)$: x = the color difference modulation result of i pixel for Red component

An integer in the range of -255~255

$VG(i)$: x = the color difference modulation result of i pixel for Green component

An integer in the range of -255~255

$VB(i)$: x = the color difference modulation result of i pixel for Blue component

An integer in the range of -255~255

[0057] Further, the color difference amount ΔV is an integer in the range of preset "0~255". The more the color difference amount ΔV is larger, the more the visible contract when restoring an embedded image data becomes higher, and the embedded data can be reproduced easily. However, if it is too large, the security data is apt to be easily disclosed. Accordingly, the color difference amount ΔV is desirable at about "16~96"; however, $\Delta V=48$ is used here.

[0058] Lastly, in the superimposition step S54, from the color difference modulation result and the ticket image data 21 in the color difference step S53, the superimposition process shown in the following expression (4-1)-(4-3) is executed and the ticket printing data 23 is made.

$$DESR(i) = VR(i) + SRCR(i) \quad (4-1)$$

$$DESG(i) = VG(i) + SRCG(i) \quad (4-2)$$

$$DESB(i) = VB(i) + SRCB(i) \quad (4-3)$$

DESR(i): x = the i pixel superimposition process result for Red component

An integer in the range of 0~255.

DESG(i): x = the i pixel superimposition process result for Green component

An integer in the range of 0~255.

DESB(i): x = the i pixel superimposition process result for Blue Component.

An integer in the range of 0~255.

SRCR(i): x = Embedded image data of i pixel for Red Component.

An integer in the range of 0~255.

SRCG(i): x = Embedded image data of i pixel for Green Component.

An integer in the range of 0~255.

SRCB(i): x = Embedded image data of i pixel for Blue Component.

An integer in the range of 0~255.

[0059] Further, DESR(i), DESG(i) and DESG(i) are integers in the range of "0~255", respectively. If the result of calculation is below "0", they are set at "0" and above "255", they are set at "255".

[0060] Results of Red component when all pixels of the ticket image data 21 are (R,G,B)=(127, 127, 127) are shown in FIG. 15. All values are integers in the range of "0~ 255" and "255" indicates that Red component is most frequent. In FIG. 15, pixels with less red components and pixels with much red components are alternately repeated in unit of two pixels in the area where no security data is embedded like a value of (0,0) pixel = 79, a value of (1,0) pixel = 79, a value of (2,0) pixel = 175 ...

[0061] As shown in the expressions (3-1)~(3-3) or (3-4) ~ (3-6), red, green and blue color difference amount codes are reversed. Accordingly, in pixels containing much red components, green and blue components are less and in pixels containing less red components, other components are much contained. Red and (Green, Blue) = Cyan are complementary colors each other and even when red and cyan are adjacent to each other, they are hardly discriminated by the eyes of a man and looked as no color. Further, as red rich pixels and cyan rich pixels are arranged repeatedly in unit of several pixels according to key image data, this fine color difference cannot be identified by the eyes of man and a color difference amount is judged to be plus-minus "0".

[0062] For instance, in the expression (4-1), it is erroneously judged to be:

$$DESR(i) \text{ } SRCR(i) \quad (5)$$

And it is not possible to discriminated that the image data is embedded. Accordingly, it becomes possible to form a ticket printing data with a security data embedded invisibly in a ticket image data according to this principle.

[0063] When making the print with a color printer using the ticket printing data, the more a color difference amount ΔV is larger, the more easy to discriminate the data and therefore, the more a degree to restore the security data becomes higher. However, the security data embedded in the invisible state in the ticket printing data may be easily exposed to a third person in some case.

[0064] So, when printing and outputting the ticket printing data with a color printer, it is possible to prevent the security data from being exposed without breaking the security data by outputting the data after executing an error diffusion process as an image processing. The security data in the macroscopically invisible state are preserved because density of pixels of ticket printing data is compensated by the error diffusion process.

[0065] Further, when the error diffusion process is applied, low frequency components decrease and high fre-

quency components increase. As the security data embedded in the ticket printing data is composed of high frequency components, other high frequency components are mixed therein and therefore, the security data becomes the state that is not visually discriminated.

[0066] Next, a ticket display data making method will be described.

[0067] Ticket display data that is made directly unusable is made by partially reducing the ticket printing data and breaking the ticket image data and the security data embedded in the invisible state.

[0068] First, the ticket printing data shown in FIG. 15 is cut in a 3x3 pixel area and is applied with the smoothing process. This is simply to take only an average and the result is as shown in FIG. 16. From the result of the smoothing process, leaving the pixel data at the top of the 4x4 pixel area, the remainder is erased (the thinning process). The result is as shown in FIG. 17. This data becomes the ticket display data.

[0069] Here, amount of data is about 1/4 of the ticket printing data. The print image resolution is generally 300–600 dpi but the image resolution of the display picture is about 100 dpi, which is 1/3–1/6 of the general print image resolution and therefore, there will be no problem.

[0070] Thus, without displaying the ticket printing data directly on the user terminal device 11, the ticket display data is made by breaking the securing data by reducing data from the ticket printing data and displayed on the user terminal device 11. As the process (display) is fast because amount of data is less and the security data and the ticket image data are partially broken, the ticket printing data cannot be used even when it is tried to obtain it illegally by taking a hard copy of the display. Accordingly, there is such a merit that the security is improved.

[0071] The ticket printing data and the ticket display data are not different apparently from the normal image and therefore, for instance, such general purpose image formats as JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) and TIFF (Tagged Image File Format) are usable. Further, as they can be processed according to an application for treating general images, the system construction is relatively easy.

[0072] Further, even when the ticket printing data image format is changed to other formats in a system, an embedded security data is left as it is and no problem is caused.

[0073] By the way, the ticket 14 printed with the ticket printing data printed and output with the ticket printer. 13 such as a color printer is used by user at a place of circuit. At this time, the system side is able to judge the genuineness of the ticket by detecting the security data of the used ticket 14. This is described below in detail.

[0074] An image of the ticket 14 printed on a paper, etc. with the ticket printer 13 is read by an optical reading means such as a scanner, digitized to the state shown in FIG. 15 and the security data 22 is restored.

[0075] To restore the security data 22, a key image data 22 shown in FIG. 10 is used. By bringing the key image data 24 to correspond with values of the ticket image of the ticket printing data 23 read by a scanner 1 : 1. The portion "1" of the value of the key image data 24 judges the ticket printing data 23 to be valid and the portion "0" of the value of the key image data 24 judges the value of the ticket printing data 23 to be invalid. The result is shown in FIG. 18. The hatched pixels in the figure are invalid data. The valid data (expressed in white on a black ground) in FIG. 18 is cut out in a prescribed size.

[0076] The security data 22 in this embodiment was expanded by 4 times by setting $n=4$ and therefore, after removing the embedded allowance of 2 pixels around it, the data is cut out in unit of 4x4 pixels. If a valid data value in the 4x4 pixel range is a red rich value ("175" in this embodiment), the embedded image data (the security data) is 1. If it is a cyan rich value ("79" in this embodiment), the embedded image data is 0. If both of red rich and cyan rich values are included, either one containing more rich color is adopted.

[0077] This is because of the smoothing process in the composition process. The result of the restoration of a embedded image data (the security data) 22 according to this method is shown in FIG. 19. The thick frame portion in the figure is the portion of the security data 22. This portion is in accord with FIG. 11 and it is seen that the security data 22 was completely restored.

[0078] Further, in this embodiment, for instance, after printing the data at a resolution 400 dpi by a thermal sublimation type printer and reading it at a resolution 1200 dpi by an optical scanner, it was restored without any problem.

[0079] Further, as a second security data restoring and detecting method, when a reproduction sheet having the same pattern transmission factor as the key image data 24 is superimposed on the printed surface of the ticket 14 physically, the security data 22 becomes visible. Accordingly, it is possible to directly check a logo mark, etc. in the security data 22 visually. This method does not require troublesome operations and a complicated apparatus and therefore, there is a merit that genuineness of a ticket can be checked simply at any place.

[0080] Further, as a third security data restoring and detecting method, a system to thin a value read by an optical means will be described. It is assumed that red components of a value read by a scanner, etc. are as shown in FIG. 15. As a checkered pattern of 4x2 unit is used for the composition process in this embodiment, the security data is thinned in unit of 4 pixels. An expansion factor n when making the security data is also related to this value and an expression of (Checkered grid unit x Expansion factor $n \geq$ Number of pixels to be thinned) becomes valid.

[0081] When the image data shown in FIG. 15 is thinned in unit of 4 pixels, it will become as shown in FIG. 20. However, as image data is insufficient, when all of 4x2 areas are set at the same value with the remaining pixels at the top,

the image data becomes as shown in FIG. 21. Although two pixels are deviated in the x direction and the y direction, it is seen that the security data 22 shown in FIG. 11 was completely restored. Thus, when the read image data is thinned, number of pixels to be processed when restoring are reduced and it becomes possible to restore the data at high speed.

[0082] As described above, by detecting the presence of the security data 22 embedded in the used ticket 14, the genuineness of the ticket 14 can be easily judged. For instance, even if the ticket 14 was given to a third person and illegally copied using a color copying machine, the history of that ticket, for instance, when, where and who issued it can be seen as the security data 22 contains a inquiry serial number and an illegal route can be detected easily.

[0083] In this embodiment, the composition process is executed using a checkered pattern in unit of 4x2 pixels as a key. So, when the composition process is executed using a checkered pattern in size of 1x1 pixel, the effect to prevent the copying with a color copying machine is further promoted. This is because red rich and cyan rich pixel data of the ticket printing data are regularly arranged alternately by the composition process when such square grids as size 1x1 or 2x2 pixels are used.

[0084] A sensor of a scanner portion of a color copying machine is not a spot but has a limited area and therefore, even if a scanner reading resolution is the same as a ticket printing resolution, pixels of a sensor of scanner and pixels of the ticket printing data are finely deviated and they are read as they are. Here, the red and cyan components are complementary colors and it is therefore difficult to separate pixels arranged in extremely highly precise pitches and erroneously recognized to be gray by the eyes of man and sensors, and they cannot be properly copied.

[0085] According to this embodiment, it becomes possible to remarkably promote security of tickets, etc. However, because security data is embedded in the invisible state, some means is needed to restore it and it is not easy to perform this work for all tickets.

[0086] So, it is necessary to distinguish a ticket that has security data embedded in the invisible state from those tickets without security data embedded but guaranteed them to be proper by some other means. For instance, using a means to print a logo mark of a ticket with embedded security data in red and to print a logo mark of a ticket without embedded security in blue, they can be easily checked and time and cost can be saved sharply.

[0087] FIG. 22 schematically shows the state from issue of ticket to detection of security data so far in use. For the ticket image data 21, a landscape photograph is used. For the security data 22, a logo mark "JAPAN" as a copyright data and a two-dimensional code for checking by the sense of vision of a man and by a machine that are converted into the security data according to the steps shown in this embodiment are used.

[0088] First, the ticket printing data 23 is made by executing the composition process of the ticket image data 21, the security data 22 and the key image data 24 according to the method described above. The image of this ticket printing data 23 is seen as a landscape photograph to the eyes of a man but the copyright data, etc. are invisibly embedded. Further, the ticket display data 25 is made from the ticket printing data 23 according to the method shown in this embodiment.

[0089] Then, these ticket printing data 23 and the ticket display data 25 are transmitted via a network to a user who requested the issue of a ticket. When receiving the ticket display data 25, user displays the ticket display data 25 on the display of the user terminal device 11 and after checking its contents, prints and outputs the ticket printing data 23 using the ticket printer 13 as a color printer and obtains the ticket 14.

[0090] User is able to use this issued ticket 14 and a system side detects the security data of the used ticket 14 using the key image data and judges the genuineness of it by collating the data base with the security data.

[0091] As the security data including the copyright data is embedded invisibly in this issued ticket 14, it is possible to restore the copyright data according to the method of restoration described above.

[0092] FIG. 23 is an example of the ticket issue method of this invention applied to an electronic postage stamp. FIG. 23(a) is the ticket printing data, FIG. 23(b) is a stamp image portion and FIG. 23(c) is the security data invisibly embedded in the stamp image portion. To enable a user to issue what has a value equal to money like postage stamps, security becomes particularly important. When security data is invisibly embedded in an electronic postage stamp likewise the auto race admission ticket described above and the print data of that ticket (stamp) is printed directly on an envelope, etc., an electronic stamp can be realized.

[0093] In the case of such a mail, it is generally processed mechanically by an address reader and therefore, security can be maintained by judging its genuineness by reading the security data embedded in an electronic stamp with a sensor. Further, when printing a stamp by a color printer, a cost can be reduced sharply by simultaneously printing an address and a name.

[0094] As described above, according to this invention, it is possible to provide a ticket issuing method that is capable of easily issuing tickets having high security through such communication means as a network, a telephone line, etc.

[0095] Further, according to this invention, it is possible to provide a ticket collating method that is capable of easily judging the genuineness of issued tickets and easily making a follow-up check when any illegality occurred.

Claims

1. A ticket issuing method comprising the steps of:

5 making security data from ticket issue request data and user identification data sent from a user via a communication means;
 making ticket image data from the ticket issue request data;
 making ticket printing data by embedding the security data in the ticket image data, the security data being invisible against the ticket image data when the ticket printing data including the ticket image data and the security data is printed on a ticket paper by the user; and
 10 sending the ticket printing data to the user via a communication means.

2. A ticket issuing method according to claim 1, wherein the step to make the security data includes the steps of:

15 making binary embedded data by binary encoding basic security data comprising control code, letter, image, voice, etc.; and
 converting the binary embedded data into binary image data in preset specific format.

3. A ticket issuing method according to claim 1, wherein the step to make the ticket printing data includes the steps of:

20 making prescribed pattern image data;
 making pattern modulated data by modulating the pattern image data by the security data; and
 superimposing the pattern modulated image data on the ticket image data.

25 4. A ticket issuing method according to claim 3, wherein the step of making the prescribed pattern image data includes the step of:

arranging adjacent image data so that they become a combination of complementary colors.

30 5. A ticket issuing method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

making ticket display data for checking the display by a display means of the user by partially reducing the ticket printing data;
 wherein the sending step sends the ticket display data together with the ticket printing data to a user via a communication means.
 35

6. A ticket issuing method according to claim 5, wherein the step to make the ticket display data includes the steps of:

40 executing the smoothing process of the ticket printing data; and
 executing the thinning process of the smoothing processed ticket printing data.

7. A ticket issuing method according to claim 1, wherein the ticket printing data making step includes the step of:

45 embedding a part of the security data in the ticket image data in both the invisible state and the visible state.

8. A ticket issuing method according to claim 1, wherein the ticket printing data making step includes the step of:

embedding a part of the security data in the ticket image data in both the invisible state and the visible state so that the invisible and visible state locations agree with each other.
 50

9. A ticket issuing method according to claim 1, wherein the ticket printing data making step includes the step of:

visibly adding a specific mark for distinguishing from the ticket image data without the security data embedded to the ticket image data with the security data embedded in the invisible state.
 55

10. A ticket issuing method according to claim 1, wherein the security data is composed of user identification data, ticket issue date and time data, kind of ticket data, ticket available period data, ticket charge data and control data.

11. A ticket collating method comprising the steps of:

making security data from ticket issue request data and user identification data sent from a user via a communication means;
 5 making ticket image data from the ticket issue request data;
 making a prescribed pattern image data;
 making pattern modulated image data by modulating the prescribed pattern image data by the security data;
 making ticket printing data by superimposing the pattern modulated image data on the ticket image data;
 sending the ticket printing data to the user via a communication means;
 10 restoring the security data from a ticket printed by the user based on the received ticket printing data; and
 judging genuineness of the printed ticket according to the restored security data.

12. A ticket collating method according to claim 11, wherein the restoring step includes the step of:

15 making the security data visible by physically superimposing a sheet shape mask having the transmission factor of the same pattern as the pattern image data on the printed ticket.

13. A ticket collating method according to claim 11, wherein the restoring step includes the step of:

20 reading the printed ticket data optically and comparing the obtained read signal with a mask signal representing the same pattern as the pattern image data, making the agreed portions of both signals invalid.

14. A ticket collating method according to claim 11, wherein the restoring step includes the step of:

25 reading the printed ticket data optically and executing the thinning process of the obtained read signal at the period corresponding to spacial frequency of the pattern image data.

15. A ticket issuing system comprising:

30 means for making security data from ticket issue request data and user identification data sent from a user via a communication means;
 means for making ticket image data from the ticket issue request data;
 means for making ticket printing data by embedding the security data in the ticket image data, the security data being invisible against the ticket image data when the ticket printing data including the ticket image data and
 35 the security data is printed on a ticket paper by the user; and
 means for sending the ticket printing data to the user via the communication means.

16. A ticket issuing method comprising the steps of:

40 outputting security data according to ticket issue request data from a user via a communication means, the security data being visible when the security data is printed on a paper;
 outputting ticket image data from the ticket issue request data, the ticket image data being visible when the ticket image data is printed on a paper;
 outputting ticket printing data by embedding the security data in the ticket image data, the security data being
 45 invisible against the ticket image data when the ticket printing data including the ticket image data and the security data is printed on a ticket paper by the user; and
 sending the ticket printing data to the user via the communication means.

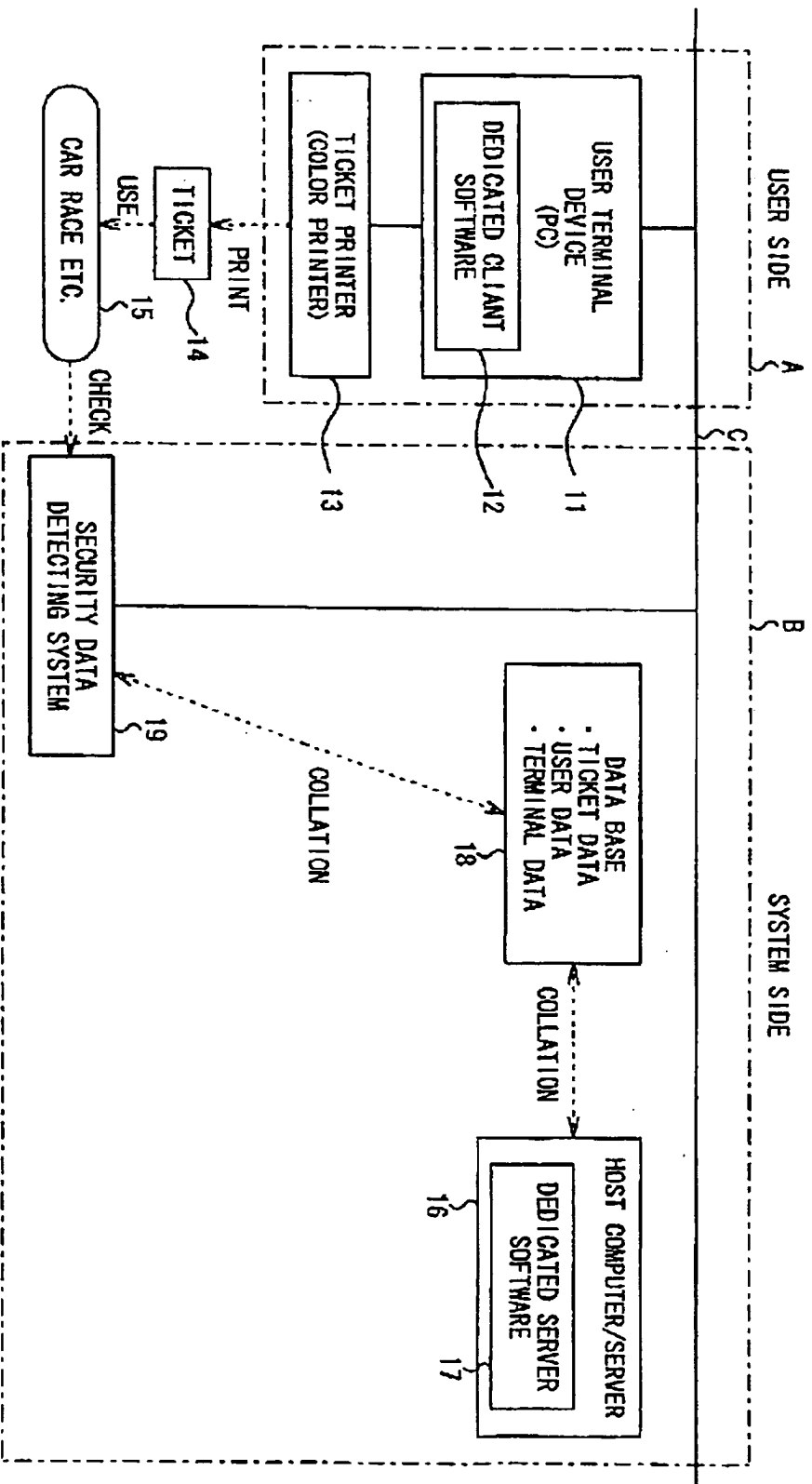


FIG. 1

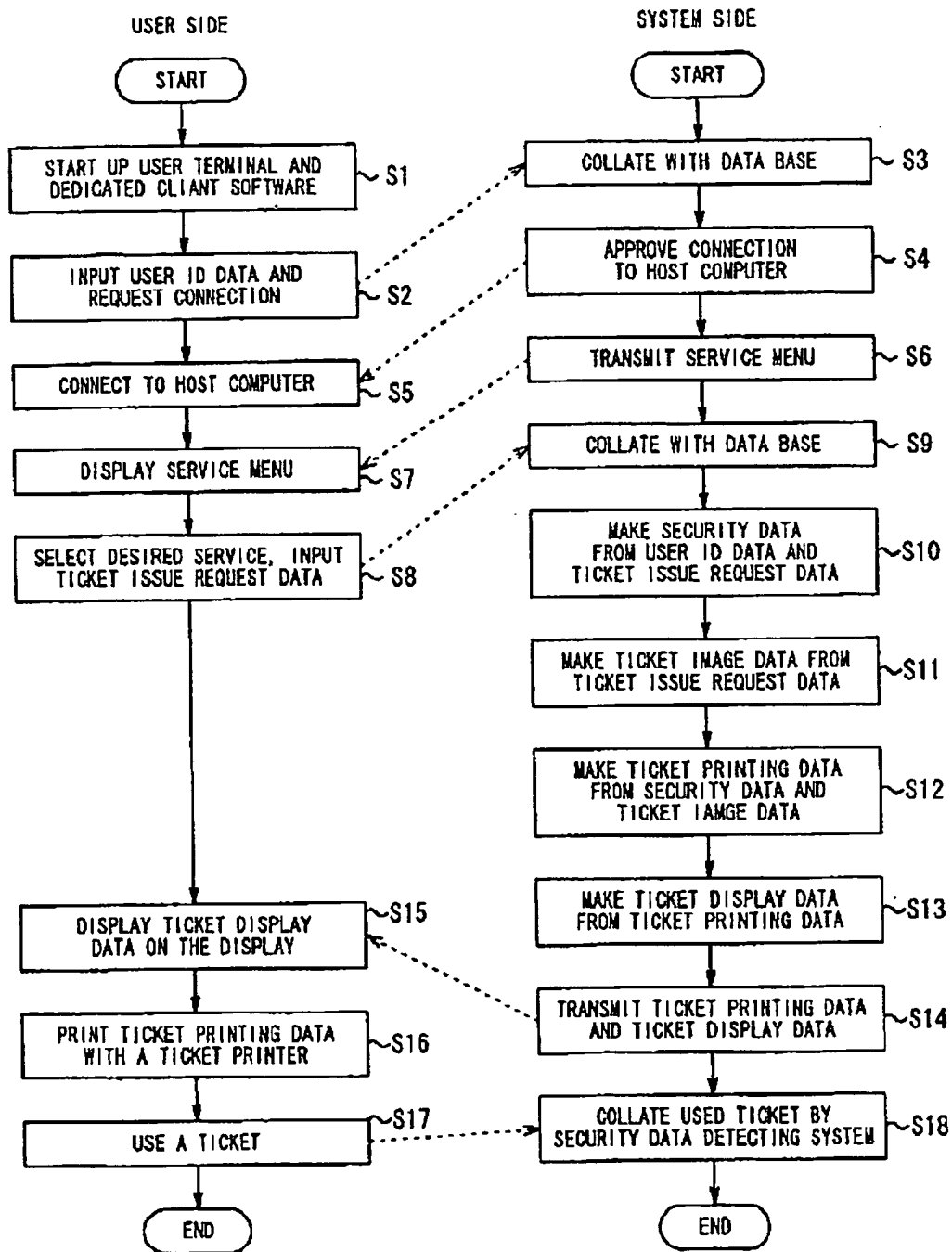


FIG. 2

21

'98 △△△△ WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
JAPAN ○○○○ RACE

<< FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET >>

INQUIRY: TO ◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇

***** CIRCUIT

1998, 12.24 RESERVED SEAT A-12

FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET: ADULT: ¥10,000

19980925123412345678

THE□□MATCH

TICKET EAST-WEST-SOUTH-NORTH

EAST

'98 △△△△ WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
SERIES THE□□MATCH

JAPAN ○○○○ RACE

<< FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET >>

***** CIRCUIT

1998, 12.24

FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET:
ADULT: ¥10,000

19980925123412345678

TICKET EAST-WEST-SOUTH-NORTH

EAST

FIG. 3

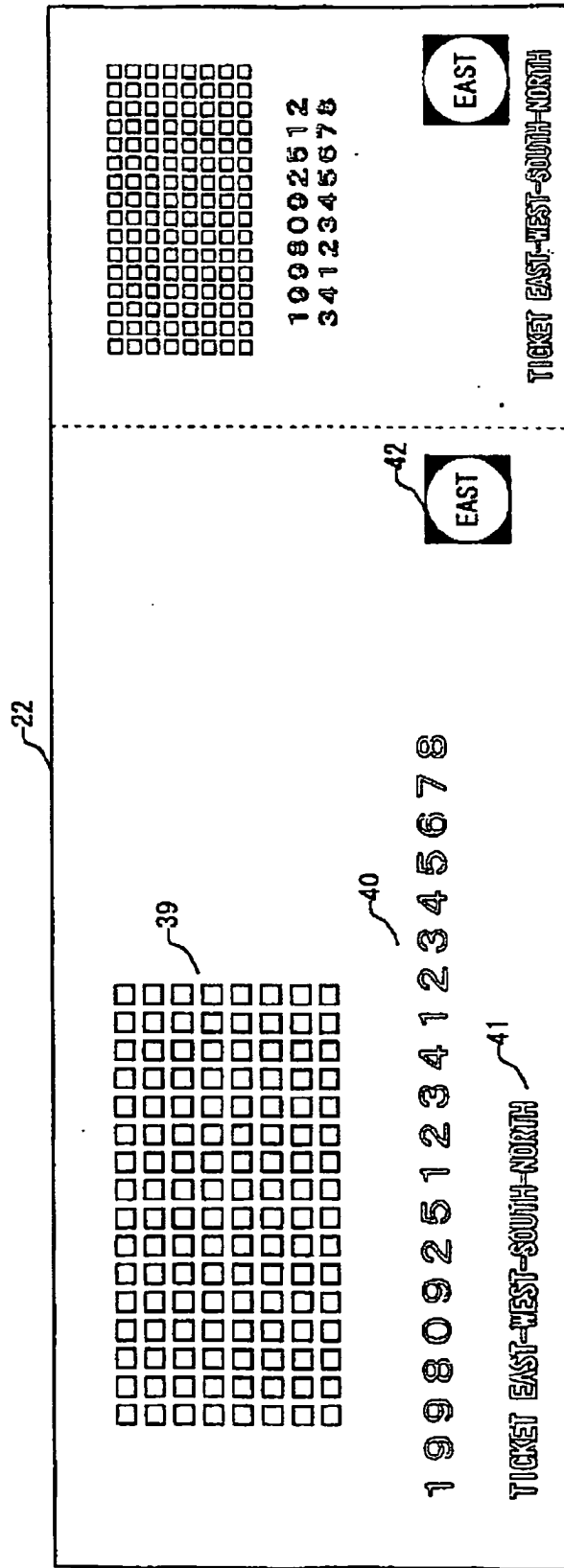


FIG. 4



<p>' 98 ΔΔΔΔ WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES THE □ MATCH JAPAN ○○○○ RACE << FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET >> INQUIRY: TO ◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇ ***** CIRCUIT 1998, 12. 24 RESERVED SEAT A-12 FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET: ADULT: ¥10, 000 19980925123412345678</p> <p>TICKET EAST-WEST-SOUTH-NORTH</p> <p></p>	<p>' 98 ΔΔΔΔ WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES THE □ MATCH JAPAN ○○○○ RACE << FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET >> ***** CIRCUIT 1998, 12. 24 FINAL MATCH ADMISSION TICKET: ADULT: ¥10, 000 19980925123412345678</p> <p>TICKET EAST-WEST-SOUTH-NORTH</p> <p></p>
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FIG. 5

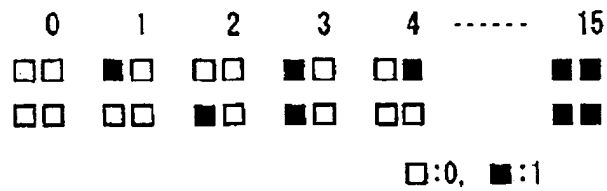


FIG. 6

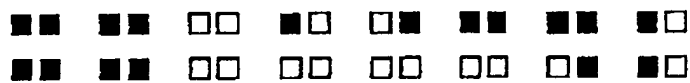
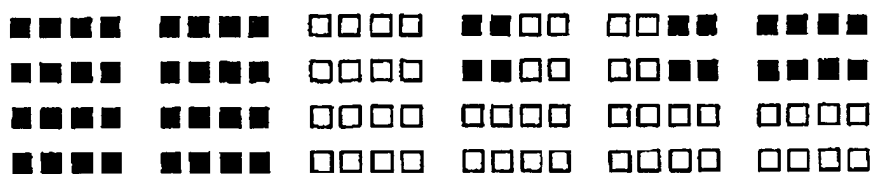


FIG. 7



IN THE CASE OF $n = 2$

FIG. 8

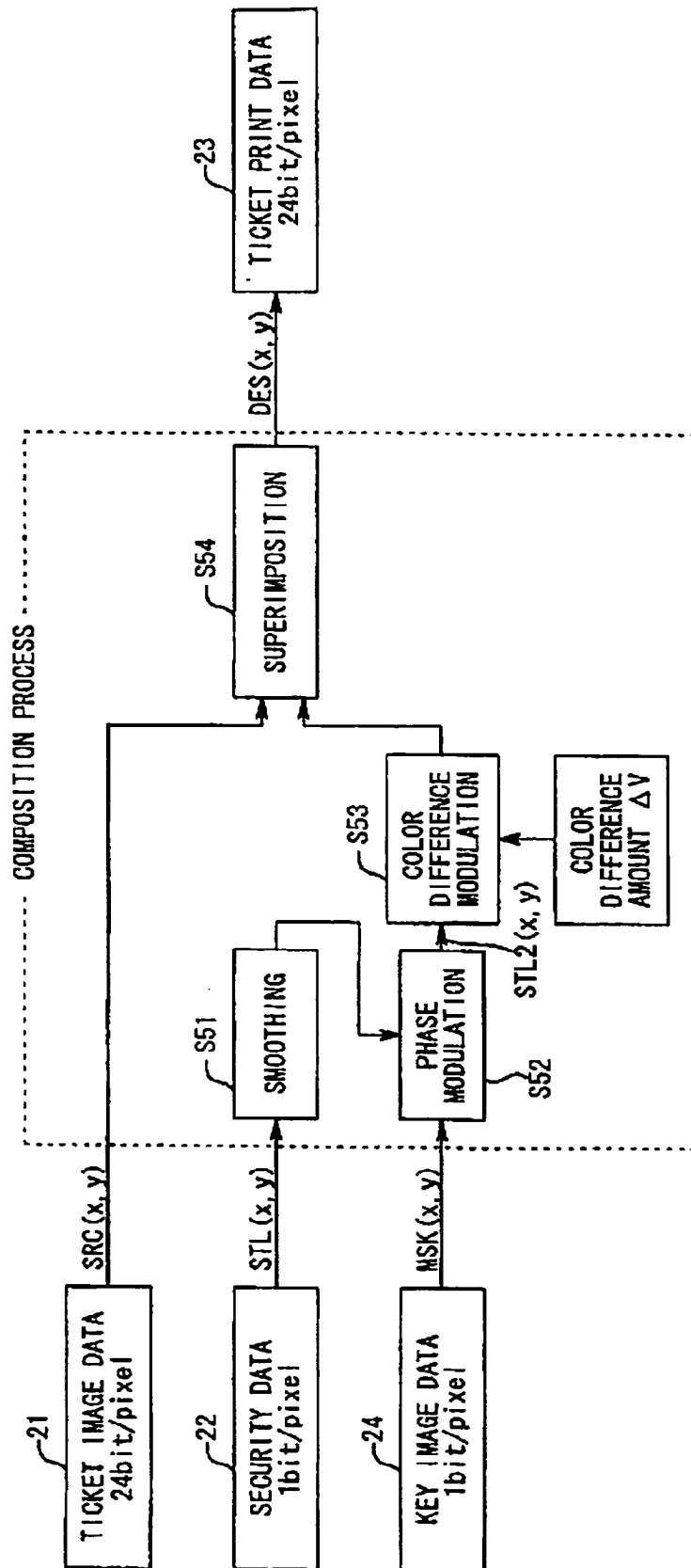


FIG. 9

KEY IMAGE

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
2	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
3	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
4	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
5	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
6	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
7	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
8	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
9	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
10	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
11	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1

FIG. 10

SECURITY DATA

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
3	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
4	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
5	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

FIG. 11

RESULTS OF SMOOTHING PROCESS

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x
1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x
2	x	0.25	0.75	1	1	0.75	0.25	0	0	0.25	0.75	1	1	0.75	0.25	x
3	x	0.25	0.75	1	1	0.75	0.25	0	0	0.25	0.75	1	1	0.75	0.25	x
4	x	0.25	0.75	1	1	0.75	0.25	0	0	0.25	0.75	1	1	0.75	0.25	x
5	x	0.25	0.75	1	1	0.75	0.25	0	0	0.25	0.75	1	1	0.75	0.25	x
6	x	0	0	0	0	0.25	0.75	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.75	0.25	x
7	x	0	0	0	0	0.25	0.75	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.75	0.25	x
8	x	0	0	0	0	0.25	0.75	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.75	0.25	x
9	x	0	0	0	0	0.25	0.75	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.75	0.25	x
10	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x
11	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x

FIG. 12

RESULTS OF PHASE MODULATION

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
4	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
6	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
8	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
10	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
11	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1

FIG. 13

RESULTS OF COLOR DIFFERENCE MODULATION : RED COMPONENT

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48
1	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48
2	-48	-48	+48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	-48	+48	-48	+48	+48	-48	+48
3	+48	+48	-48	+48	-48	-48	+48	-48	+48	+48	-48	+48	-48	-48	-48	-48
4	-48	-48	+48	-48	+48	+48	-48	+48	-48	-48	+48	-48	+48	+48	+48	+48
5	+48	+48	-48	+48	-48	-48	+48	-48	+48	+48	-48	+48	-48	-48	-48	-48
6	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	+48	+48
7	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	-48	-48
8	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	+48	+48
9	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	-48	-48
10	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48
11	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48	+48	+48	-48	-48

FIG. 14

RESULTS OF SUPERIMPOSITION PROCESS: RED COMPONENT

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175
1	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79
2	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175
3	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79
4	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175
5	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79
6	79	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	175	175
7	175	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	79	79
8	79	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	175	175
9	175	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	79	79
10	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175
11	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79

FIG. 15

MAKING OF TICKET DISPLAY DATA-SMOOTHING PROCESS: RED COMPONENT

$y \setminus x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1	x	132	132	132	132	143	143	132	132	132	132	132	132	143	143	x
2	x	132	122	122	132	132	122	122	132	132	122	122	132	132	122	x
3	x	132	132	132	132	143	143	132	132	132	132	132	132	143	143	x
4	x	122	122	122	122	111	111	122	122	122	122	122	122	111	111	x
5	x	122	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	122	122	132	143	143	x
6	x	122	122	122	122	111	111	122	122	122	122	122	122	111	111	x
7	x	122	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	122	122	132	143	143	x
8	x	132	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	132	132	122	111	111	x
9	x	122	132	132	122	122	132	132	122	122	132	132	122	122	132	x
10	x	132	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	132	132	122	111	111	x
11	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

FIG. 16

MAKING OF TICKET DISPLAY DATA-THINNING PROCESS: RED COMPONENT

$\frac{y}{x}$	0	1	2	3
0	132	143	132	143
1	122	132	132	143
2	122	122	122	122

FIG. 17

RESULTS OF RECOVERY(a): RED COMPONENT

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	79	79	175	75	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175
1	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79
2	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175
3	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79
4	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	175	175
5	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	79	79
6	79	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	175	175
7	175	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	79	79
8	79	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	175	175
9	175	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	79	79
10	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175
11	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79	175	175	79	79

FIG. 18

RESULTS OF RECOVERY(b) : RED COMPONENT

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	x	x	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	x	x
3	x	x	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	x	x
4	x	x	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	x	x
5	x	x	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	x	x
6	x	x	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	x	x
7	x	x	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	x	x
8	x	x	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	x	x
9	x	x	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	x	x
10	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
11	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

FIG. 19

RESULTS OF THINNING PROCESS: RED COMPONENT

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	79				79				79				79			
1																
2																
3																
4	79				175				79				175			
5																
6																
7																
8	79				79				175				175			
9																
10																
11																

FIG. 20

RESULTS OF INTERPOLATING PROCESS : RED COMPONENT

$y \backslash x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
1	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
2	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
3	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
4	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175
5	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175
6	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175
7	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175
8	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175
9	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175
10	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175
11	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175

FIG. 21

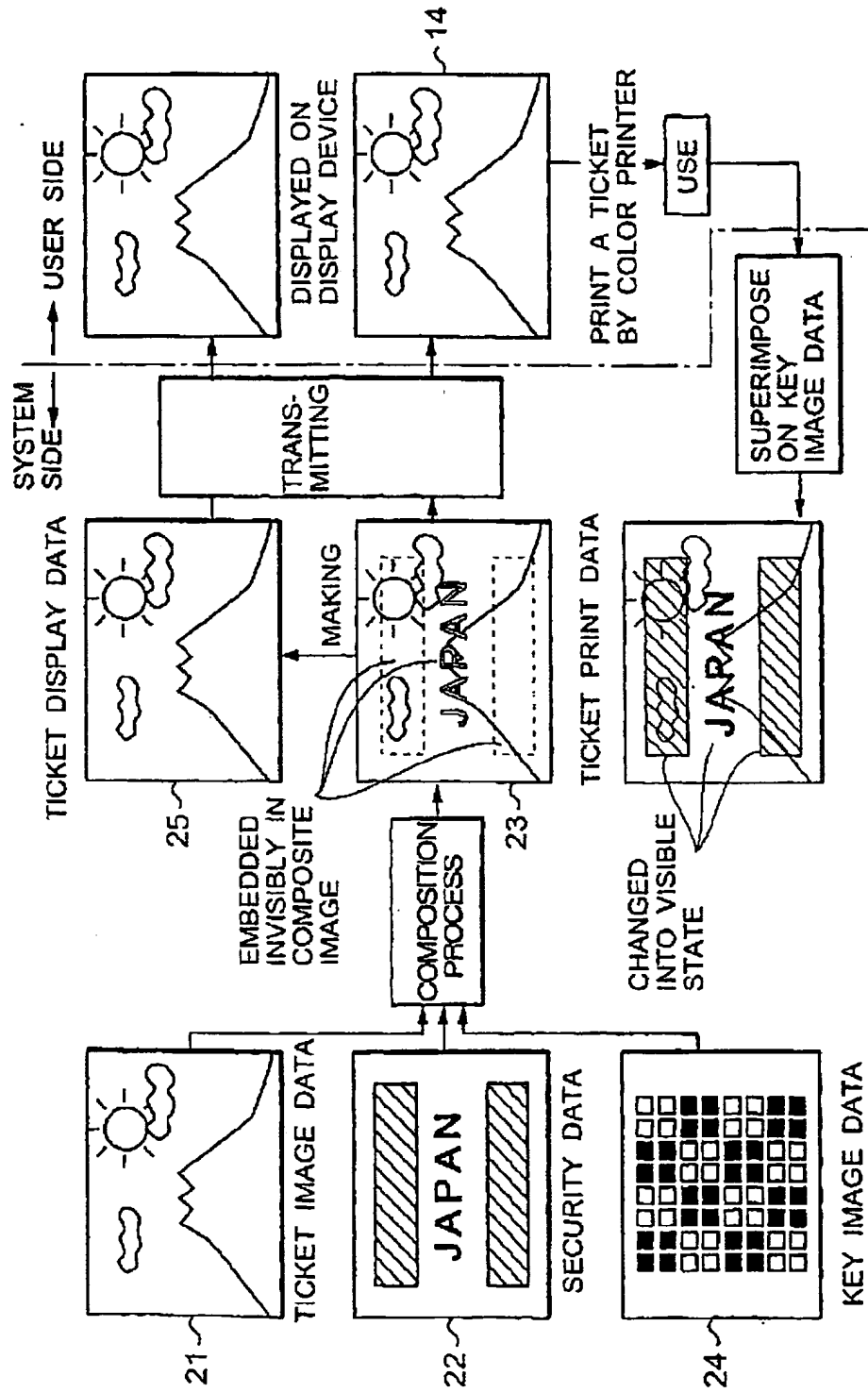


FIG. 22

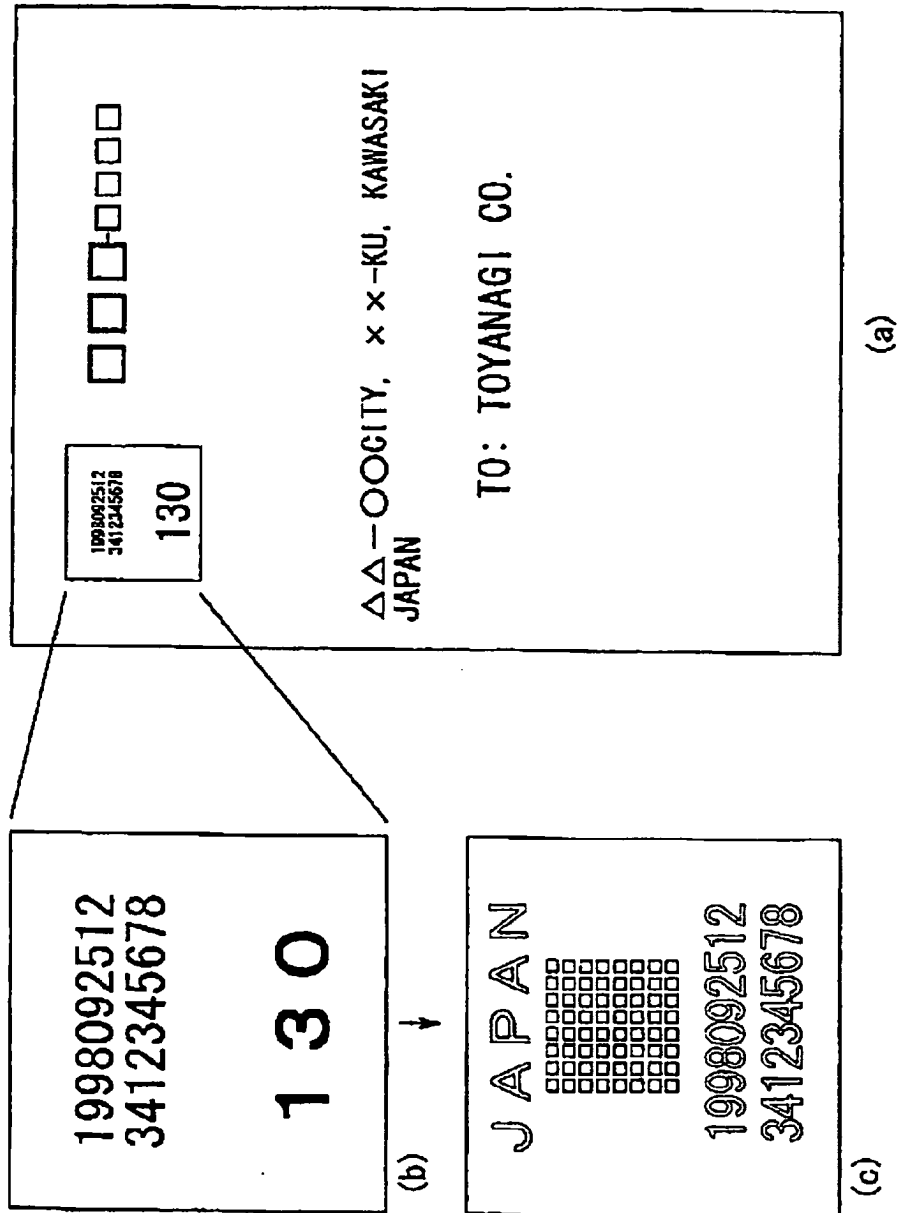


FIG. 23